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Friendly tax shelters p9

The Costa del Sol's Golden Mile p10

Kremlin power brokers Wall Street's anxious message

Foot safaris in Kenya p11

What's new for the home office p13

WORLD NEWS

Fixed penalty fines planned for speeding

Fixed penalties for motoring offences are to be extended to speeding by April 1984, said the Home Office.

Lebanon doubts

The Reagan administration is facing growing disillusionment in Congress over its Lebanon policy.

Children escape

Twelve children, aged five, escaped injury when their classroom was hit by a terrorist rocket aimed at an Army vehicle.

Six die in blaze

Five brothers and sisters and their step-father died when fire swept through their home in Tynnyrfell, South Wales.

Howe hits back

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe hit back at those who attacked the "luxurious" life-style of Britain's diplomats abroad.

Holiday warning

Nearly 4,000 Commons workers have been told to get official permission before booking holidays in communist countries.

Walesa visit

Lech Walesa, former leader of banned Polish trade union Solidarity, said he will visit Britain in July.

Pay cut sought

The 3,000 school meals service staff in Hertfordshire are to be told by the county council to accept either a 22 per cent pay cut or be made redundant.

Train crash kills 43

At least 43 passengers were killed when two trains crashed at Bahadurgarh, near Delhi, India.

Consulate bombed

A bomb caused some damage to the Turkish consulate in Cologne, West Germany. A bomb exploded outside a bank in the Spanish Basque town of Retuerto, as youths clashed with police.

Icelandic first

Iceland's first bank raid, carried out when staff were on duty, took place in Reykjavik when a masked man snatched about \$8,500.

Expensive habit

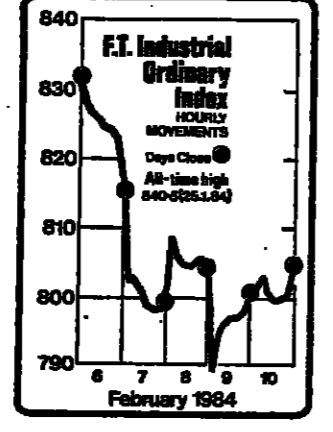
More than 400 South Koreans have been fined £200 for smoking or selling foreign cigarettes during a campaign to promote home-produced goods.

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Overseas buying boosts TI

TI GROUP: heavy overseas buying yesterday pushed the leading engineering company's share price up 14p to 218p, the highest since 1982.

Equities were little changed but improved late, with the FT Industrial Ordinary index closing at the day's high of 805.4, up 4.1.



of 27 on the week, abruptly reversing a four-month advance taking the index to record levels, and reflecting Wall Street weakness. Page 24

ANGLO-FRENCH \$452m (\$319m) contract to expand a Thai oil refinery appears to have been saved, after two days of talks between the Thai government and French Foreign Trade Minister Edith Cresson.

SAUDI Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani backed Nigeria's case for an oil production quota above the 1.3m b/d fixed by Opec.

JAPAN decided not to block Citicorp's plan to buy part of Vickers-da Costa, the London stockbroker, with one of the few licences granted to foreigners to do securities business in Tokyo.

LLOYD'S underwriters have been asked to disclose the reinsurance arrangements they have made with offshore companies.

U.S. wholesale prices rose 0.8 per cent last month, much more than expected.

RENAULT, French state-owned car group, expects to be heavily in the red for 1983, with the truck division showing a deficit of more than FF1.1bn (\$84m).

HANSON TRUST attacked the assets revaluation made by London Brick but is not expected to revise its £212m offer immediately.

STRAITS TRADING of Singapore bought another 4.6 per cent of Carlton United Breweries, Australia's biggest, taking its stake to almost 10 per cent.

MARKETS section with sub-sections: DOLLAR, U.S. LUNCHE TIME RATES, STOCK INDICES, GOLD.

CHERENKO TO THE FORE FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF ANDROPOV Search starts for new Soviet leader

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON

THE SEARCH for a new leader of the Soviet Union was under way last night after the official announcement that President Yuri Andropov died on Thursday afternoon after a long illness.

A special funeral committee has been set up to supervise the arrangements. It is headed by Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the 73-year-old Politburo veteran who was Mr Brezhnev's own choice for the succession.

Foreign exchange markets reacted calmly to the death of Mr Andropov, with the dollar registering small gains after falling back from early highs.

The state funeral in Red Square is expected to provide an opportunity to renew East-West contacts at the highest level.

The value of such meetings, however, will depend largely on whether a new leader has emerged by then.

Foreign exchange markets reacted calmly to the death of Mr Andropov, with the dollar registering small gains after falling back from early highs.

take more time, though those who engineered the smooth succession last time are still in powerful positions.

Mr Chernenko is seen as the main "interim" candidate for the top party post while there are three main contenders.

Foreign exchange markets reacted calmly to the death of Mr Andropov, with the dollar registering small gains after falling back from early highs.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, 53, an agricultural and economy expert.

Any steep upward move in the U.S. currency was also inhibited by uncertainty following the comments earlier this week of Mr Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Board chairman.

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hours Moscow time on February 9.

This became increasingly apparent as ill-health, a serious kidney complaint and other ailments which have not yet been officially revealed, sapped his early image as a forceful, dynamic innovator.

Foreign exchange markets reacted calmly to the death of Mr Andropov, with the dollar registering small gains after falling back from early highs.

and official decrees and statements.

The reality of the past six months, however, appears to have been that of a man fighting in vain against the odds with the aid of the best medical treatment available while the real government of the Soviet Union passed into the hands of a small group of powerful Politburo members.

Foreign exchange markets reacted calmly to the death of Mr Andropov, with the dollar registering small gains after falling back from early highs.

Door left open on Reagan visit

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MR GEORGE SHULTZ, the U.S. Secretary of State, yesterday left open the possibility that President Reagan might go to Moscow to attend the funeral of Soviet leader Mr Yuri Andropov.

He planned to attend Mr Andropov's funeral.

Foreign Secretary, said in a radio interview: "I hope the approach that he (Andropov) was indicating towards the case for approving dialogue, for improving relationships generally, will also commend itself to his successor."

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Retail price fall cuts inflation rate to 5.1%

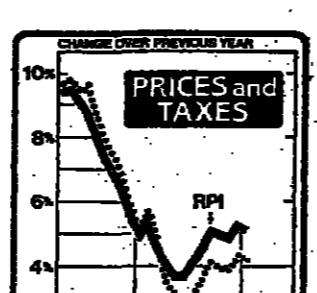
BY PHILIP STEPHENS

THE RETAIL price index fell 0.1 per cent in January, only the third monthly drop in 14 years, pushing the annual inflation rate down to 5.1 per cent from 5.3 per cent in December.

The figures delighted the Government and were greeted as a clear sign that it was on target to bring inflation down to 4.5 per cent by the fourth quarter of this year.

On the last two occasions when prices had actually fallen—in September and December 1982—mortgage rate cuts had been a factor in pushing the index down.

In January there were no such exceptional factors, apart from the general impact of the sales.



movement in the retail price index over the last six months was only 3.7 per cent, although January's 5.1 per cent inflation rate is above the low of 3.7 per cent recorded last May.

Officials said, however, that there are no major increases in the pipeline, with higher prices for cigarettes, tea, gas, electricity and milk expected to offset small increases in other sectors.

Continued on Back Page

Confusion day in shipyards

By Brian Groom, Labour Staff

PLANS by British Shipbuilders for dramatic improvements in efficiency were in confusion yesterday when it emerged that one-third of the 30,000 workers had rejected local versions of the proposed 27-week productivity deal.

When the deadline to qualify for backdating the ET to November 1 passed last night, deals had been rejected by all or some of the workers at six major yards.

Continued on Back Page

M&G INTERNATIONAL GROWTH FUND advertisement with a globe graphic and text: 'A SLICE OF THE WORLD? NEW OFFER'.

CONTENTS table listing various sections and their page numbers.

Handwritten Arabic text: كلانا من الأهل

The Soviet leader held office for only 15 months. FT writers look at his life and assess world reaction to his death.

Andropov, the man who became leader too late

Little hope of improved relations with China

YURI VLADIMIROVICH ANDROPOV was already suffering from one great handicap when he became fifth leader of the Soviet Union in November 1982—his age. At 68 he was the oldest man ever to take over power and it was known that he suffered periodically from a kidney disorder and related blood disease. The strain of high office weakened him further and the question over his longevity undermined his authority before it had even been fully established.

In many ways this was deeply ironic because he became leader only after skillfully neutralising what hitherto had been seen as a much more important disqualifier: his 15-year stint as head of the KGB. But Mr Andropov was not a policeman, still less a killer, in the earlier Stalinist tradition. He was a politician, and a subtle, intelligent one at that. He became head of the KGB in 1967 because the cautious collective leadership of the early Brezhnev years wanted an efficient security apparatus, but under careful party control. To underline his political status, Mr Andropov was appointed as a non-voting candidate member of the Politburo and six years later became a full member.

The KGB proved to be the ultimate stepping stone to power. But Mr Andropov had already accumulated much useful prior experience during his steady rise from humble origins. He was born the son of a minor railway official in June 1914 at the village of Nagutskaya in the Stavropol region of Southern Russia. After starting work at 16 as a boatman on the Volga, he became a telegraph operator and cinema projectionist before graduating from a technical institute in 1936 as a shipbuilder. Soon after starting his first serious job at the Volodarski shipyards at Rybinsk on the Volga, however, he became the yard's Komsomol (Young Communist) organiser and four years later at 26 he became head of the Komsomol in the Yaroslavl region.



Andropov... handicapped by age

Union. It showed him, *inter alia*, the degree of corruption and cynicism prevailing among many members of the Soviet elite and the degree of ineffectiveness, incompetence, idleness and theft which impermeated the economy. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that he started his

genuine attempt to squeeze higher productivity out of an economy hamstrung by shortages despite high investment. Mr Andropov was well aware of his age handicap. He knew that, unlike his predecessors, he did not have a decade to spend consolidating his power and that one of his main functions was to promote younger, more proficient men and give them the experience necessary to form the next generation of leaders.

When this failed and deployment of (U.S.) cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe began, the Soviet Union had to tacitly admit a major policy setback. Soviet frustration was underlined by walking out of the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) negotiations in Geneva in November and refusing to name a resumption date for the strategic arms (Start) talks.

By Mark Baker in Peking
THE DEATH of Yuri Andropov comes at a time when relations between China and the Soviet Union are virtually stagnant, with little prospect of a change in the Soviet leadership resolving the impasse. For more than 20 years, the world's two biggest Communist powers have held each other at arm's length after falling out over ideology. It was the previous Soviet leader, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, who initiated moves to bring them back to the negotiating table.

Paris wants to sustain progress

By David Housego in Paris
The French Government hopes the recent improvement in relations with the Soviet Union will be sustained under the new Russian leadership.



Reagan... in recent weeks he has gone out of his way to appear more conciliatory toward Moscow

Reagan given chance to start U.S.-Soviet thaw

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE DEATH of Mr Yuri Andropov gives President Ronald Reagan an opportunity to make a new start in trying to unfreeze U.S.-Soviet relations if he chooses to do so—and there are some signs he may.

More recently Washington's suspicions of Moscow have only been enhanced by what it sees as the aggressive behaviour in the Middle East of Syria—a country that the Reagan Administration has denounced as a Soviet surrogate intent on sabotaging U.S. interests in the region.

and publicly protesting that he is the first U.S. President since Mr Herbert Hoover, in the early 1930s, not even to have met his Soviet counterpart.

The French wish to renew the dialogue with the Soviet Union was made clear by President Mitterrand last year and repeated on his subsequent visit to Yugoslavia.

East Europe allies anxious over succession

BY DAVID BUCHAN, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

CHANGE at the Kremlin helm has global foreign policy significance. But for some 100m people in the Soviet Union's six East European allies it has also direct bearing on the internal ordering of their societies.

order before turning to their common trading problems in Comecon. But the Andropov era came and went without Soviet bloc leaders holding their long-rumoured and much-prepared Comecon summit.

Bonn calls for efforts to resume arms negotiations

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN BONN

THE overriding concern of the West German Government after the death of Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, is that his succession should be swiftly and decisively resolved, to set East-West relations on a more predictable footing.

Iraq braced for major assault by Iranians

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

Iraq is bracing itself for a full-scale Iranian assault to mark today's fifth anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Tehran.

Group of Five talks cancelled

By Paul Betts in Paris

A MEETING of Group of Five Finance Ministers in Paris tomorrow has been cancelled after the decision of Mr Donald Regan, U.S. Treasury Secretary and Mr Noburu Takashita, Japanese Finance Minister, not to attend.

Navy evacuates Britons from Beirut

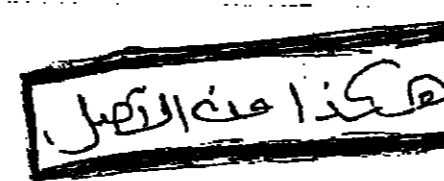
BY PATRICK COCKBURN IN BEIRUT

BRITISH and American citizens were evacuated from Beirut seafloor yesterday by Royal Navy and U.S. helicopters as a dozen Israeli jets bombed a town east of the capital.

Wholesale prices in U.S. rise

By Stewart Fleming in Washington

WHOLESALE prices in the U.S. rose 0.6 per cent in January, a much bigger jump than economists had been expecting and one which will be interpreted as a worrying sign that inflationary pressures may be building up.



Disapproval of the Budget

MR LARRY WACHTEL, a Prudential-Bache guru who has the inenviable task of interpreting the capital markets on radio every morning, summed up the extraordinary events on the New York Stock Exchange this week with a characteristically caustic dealer's comment: "Wall Street," he told thousands of New York listeners, "has become the conscience of Washington."

The remark captured the market's feelings perfectly for once. This was the week when the markets finally lost their patience with the budget deficit and with a President who has refused to do anything about it while promising just the opposite. As Mr Reagan headed off across the continent on an electioneering jamboree in his home town and a long holiday weekend in California, the stock market plunge sent a warning volley of disapproval across his bow.

Wall Street has, of course, been worrying mildly about the deficit since the beginning of this year. But over the last fortnight two things happened to bring this vaguely perceived

an explosion in money growth. The hope is that this would lead to his ideal of healthy, sustained, non-inflationary expansion. In the meantime, the pressures that are building up in

ing to find a bottom in a heavy bout of trading the following day. By the final bell on Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had fallen by 45 points since the publication of Mr Volcker's monetary report to Congress on Monday, and was more than 185 points down on the near-record figure touched on January 6. The last time the Dow was at current levels was back on April 12 last year.

Mr Volcker has skittled the index so comprehensively mainly because he appears to have put a clear floor under interest rates. If rates are not heading down—and the past Christmas consensus was that they would—equities appear heavily overvalued on a yield basis. Midway through January, first class commercial paper was yielding around 13 per cent, while Salomon Brothers' dividend estimates for 1983 put the broadly-based S and P 500 index on a yield of 4.3 per cent. With the S and P down to the 155 point region by the end of this week, the yield has moved back in the right direction to around 4.7 per cent.

At the same time, the strength of interest rates has begun to make it look less certain that corporate profits can maintain

the kind of momentum that Wall Street had been predicting. The air waves have been full of the noise of analysts ripping up their projections this week as they fall foul of one after another (sometimes improbable) anxiety—productivity growth is supposed to be stalling, companies finding it more difficult to push through price increases, and wages rising faster than expected.

Mr Volcker has tried to stop the rot by arguing that Wall Street's reaction to his warnings has been "overblown." But the market is now in the bearish sort of state where virtually all news, as E. F. Hutton put it in its weekly circular, is bad news. Looking back, this attitude seemed to set in when IBM brought in its superlative 1983 figures in mid January and the market promptly knocked back the shares. It was capped this week when General Motors' figures shattered virtually every financial record in its own personal Olympiad and investors virtually ignored them in the rush for the market exits.

credit demand might not be good for the markets. "Markets," he said, in a rare flight of fancy, "have a mind of their own. They have never waited on the convenience of kings, or Congressmen—or elections."

That collection of millions of decision makers who propel the New York markets one way or the other, acted with rare unanimity to this Washington vignette. Shares slumped by almost 23 points on Monday, rallied unconvincingly on Tuesday, lost a further 24 points in free fall on Wednesday (the worst day since October 25 1982), and churned around try-

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Written down, but not off

STEAM rising from the cold douche which has hit an over-heated Wall Street and U.S. dollar this week should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the mining industry is still heading for a better year—even if some of the share prices are looking rather soggy.

Of course you have to be an optimist if you are in any way involved with the mining industry, as I may have remarked before. One such is Mr Pierre Gousseland, chairman of Amax, the U.S. natural resource major which built up its fortunes on molybdenum, the steel industry metal.

Those fortunes have wilted with the demise of the market for molybdenum which is expected to continue to be a loss-maker for Amax this year. Copper is not doing very well either and Amax has had to write off some \$308.8m (£218.6m) from its interests in these metals.

As a result the company's fourth quarter loss has expanded to a worst-ever \$366.9m. It makes an awesome total loss for 1983 of \$489m which follows a loss of \$390.1m in 1982. And yet Mr Gousseland was looking positively cheerful when I saw him this week.

The answer can be summed up in one word—aluminium. Demand for this metal has recovered sharply and is still growing. It lifted aluminium prices by over 40 per cent last year to an average 65 cents per lb and at the current level of over 80 cents the metal is providing a bonanza for the producers.

The only thing that may be giving them some thought for concern is that if prices go much higher consumers will look again at the merits of the rival metal, copper, prices of which are wallowing at around 63 cents per lb; there is a lot of it about, as they say.

Still, this does not perturb Amax. Having greatly expanded its aluminium interests by the acquisition of Pecheiney's Howmet subsidiary, Amax expects to earn more from aluminium this year than it ever did from molybdenum, even in the halcyon days when the latter metal provided 65 per cent of the company's profits.

Aluminium has also grown in importance for CRA, the major

MINING KENNETH MARSTON

Australian arm of the Rio Tinto Zinc group, CRA holds 67 per cent of the Australian aluminium-producing Comalco which lost A\$4.98m (£2.87m) in the first half of last year, largely as a result of heavy interest charges on money borrowed for expansion.

Since then the new production capacity has progressively come on stream and started to earn good profits. The result has been that in the second half of last year Comalco did so well that it came out of 1983 with a profit of A\$26.4m.

It should do even better this year. As the company says: "1984 should see the (aluminium) industry continue to improve... hopefully leading to an adequate return to the industry to compensate at least in part for three years of unacceptably low levels of profitability."

A great deal of electric power is needed in the production of aluminium and Australia has the benefit of relatively cheap power supplies. Furthermore, the country is well placed to take advantage of the important Asian market.

Indeed, Sir James Foots, the previous chairman of MIM Holdings, pointed last year to growing demand for Australian minerals from Asia and the Pacific Basin. CRA is also well aware of this huge potential for its diversified mineral products and is already moving in.

It is possible that one day the Pacific Rim may be a more important factor for Australia than even the U.S. economy. It's a thought, but it may provide some consolation for holders of CRA who have seen their shares wilt this week from 378p to 356p in deference to the trend on Wall Street.

In the world of nickel, life is still far from easy. At this time last year there were high hopes that the prices of this steel industry metal would show a good recovery.

Such hopes proved short-lived, however, and Canada's major producer, Inco, received an average price for its metal of only \$2.25 per pound compared with \$2.71 in 1982 but at least it was able to increase sales.

Fourth quarter results for 1982 announced this week show a further loss of US\$54.6m (£38.6m) which makes a total loss for the year of \$234.9m compared with a restated loss of \$203.3m for 1982.

The rival Falconbridge managed to move into profit in the fourth quarter but still showed a loss on the year of C\$18.4m before extraordinary items.

Like other mining majors, both Inco and Falconbridge have been increasing productivity and general efficiency by their cost-cutting programmes. Inco has said that its 1984 results should improve "significantly" over those of 1983, although the metal price is

currently only around \$2.15 per pound.

The general feeling is that the nickel market is over the worst although the average price for this year is not expected to be more than around \$2.50 per pound. This could still make quite a difference to these producers which are currently operating in the barely "break-even" area.

It would also help Australia's Western Mining which, with the help of its important gold interests, has done well in the first half of its year to next June.

The prices received in Australian dollars for the company's U.S. dollar sales of

nickel and gold have benefited by favourable exchange rates and net profits for the half-year have risen to A\$18.1m from only A\$1.24 a year ago.

Aluminium also comes into the Western Mining picture via the 30.5 per cent-owned Alcoa of Australia. In all, therefore, Western Mining should see a further rise in earnings in the second half.

Tempering this view to some extent would be any easing in the value of the U.S. dollar which would erode the exchange rate benefit on metal sales income. On the other hand it might well be accompanied by a rise in the dollar price of gold.

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PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

It is proposed to publish a survey on the above subject on Saturday, 28th April, 1984

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NIGEL PULLMAN
FINANCIAL TIMES LTD
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Telephone: 01-248 8000 ext 4063

Sale by a receiver

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

In April 1969, my wife and I guaranteed a fixed and floating debenture in respect of a group of companies of which we were directors and major shareholders. In October 1971, the companies went into liquidation, the official receiver being appointed liquidator. However, before the winding-up order was made, the debenture holders appointed a receiver and manager. First of all the company's assets were disposed of at a gross under-value then two of our personal assets were sold. The receiver has never supplied copies of his payments and receipts to either the companies or my wife and self.

In November 1973 my wife and I were made personally bankrupt. The debenture holder's receiver and manager did not make any claim in the bankruptcy, but took the charged securities. My wife and I were discharged from bankruptcy in 1977.

The final asset which was originally in the names of my wife and self consists of 26 acres of land designated for residential development. The land is about to be sold by the debenture holder's receiver for circa £750,000. The debenture holders claim about £300,000 of this, made up of about £70,000 capital and the remainder grossed-up interest.

I should like to know the answers to the following:

- 1) Will the surplus on the receiver's sale be paid to my wife and me, or will it be paid to our Trustee in Bankruptcy?
- 2) Regarding the sales of freehold land and buildings at a gross under-value by the Receiver and Manager, is it too late to make a claim for negligence?
- 3) Is it possible to force the Receiver and Manager to render accounts to myself in respect of our assets and the sale of same?
- 4) Are the matters referred to above affected by the following authorities: a) *Cuckmere Brick Co Ltd. v Mutual Finance Ltd* (1971) Ch. 949; b) *Standard Chartered Bank v Walker and another* (before Court of Appeal June 17 1982 - *Lords Denning, L. J. Watkins and L. J. Fox*) - "The Times."

The surplus on sale of the land should be paid to you and your wife.

If, as seems to be the case, the sales at an undervalue were effected before 1978, it is too late to make a claim against the receiver.

We think that the receiver

is an accounting party and can therefore be required to render accounts showing his dealings with the company's assets, and yours, but that will not revive a cause of action for a sale made negligently over six years ago.

Both the cases you cite have relevance but neither will assist in respect of the sale of the company's assets in 1971 or 1972. The *Standard Chartered Bank* case is reported in (1972) 1 WLR 1410.

Held over CGT

I have a tenanted house, inherited in 1965, probate value £817, present rent £8 per week, and would like to convey this to three sons equally. Would it be possible to have capital gains tax held over? If so, could you please inform me of the correct procedure regarding the Inland Revenue?

Yes. The solicitor who prepares the conveyance of the property to your sons (as tenants in common, presumably) will be able to draft a simple letter to your tax inspector, for signature by all four of you.

Surrender of tenancy

I inherited a house in 1967 occupied by a sitting tenant. The rent is controlled and barely brings in enough to maintain the outside of the property. It has been roofed, new bathroom fittings installed and a new sink during the past few years in addition to the painting and general maintenance of the outside, the cost of which has been allowed against income for tax purposes. The tenant is now willing to vacate the property provided I pay compensation and a figure of £2,000 has been mentioned.

Can you please tell me whether payment of such compensation is legal and would be binding on the tenant could not come back later and repudiate the deal.

A contract to surrender a tenancy which is a protected tenancy, even where it is in consideration of a sum such as you mention, is NOT enforceable by the landlord, but it can be en-

forced by the tenant. If such a contract has been completed, the money paid and the tenant gone out of possession, it would not be set aside.

Joint account rights

Could you please tell me if the true joint account (Finance and the Family, December 10) refers to (a) joint account—both to sign, or (b) joint account—either to sign? I together with my mother have for a number of years operated an account under (a), and I would like to know if in your opinion the same rights and implications outlined in your reply would apply to this type of joint account, or must one change to (b) type of account. Both of the situations which you describe normally constitute true joint accounts, and the terms of our earlier reply would apply.

A disputed boundary

With reference to your answer headed "A disputed boundary" (December 17 1983), I was most intrigued with your last sentence, i.e. "There is no way to trace the registered title."

Could you please tell me why? Is it because the original deeds are destroyed when we have a "registered title"? After registration of title the original deeds are not required as part of the documentation necessary to prove ownership. Hence they may be destroyed (or sold) or simply retained by an intermediate vendor, and they cannot therefore be traced if they are not passed on with the Land Certificate. However, that does not mean that old deeds will not be available in every case—only that if not produced they cannot be required or readily traced.

Safeguarding children in wills

My wife has a quarter share in the equity of three commercial properties. In her Will I benefit from the income, but the equity transfers to our

two children. If I pre-deceased by wife, pressure could develop (re-marriage etc) to change the Will. My wife and I wish to safeguard our children against this.

We realise that forming a trust would do so, but feel that we cannot justify the Stamp Duty or Capital Transfer Tax. Can you offer advice please?

Your wife can contract (for valuable consideration e.g. £10, or by deed), with her sons not to alter her will. This will not prevent her being able to alter her will, but would give the disappointed beneficiaries a cause of action against the estate so that they could recover in damages what they would lose in legacies.

Sole control of CGT

In your "Finance and the Family" column your Legal Staff advised an enquirer (December 10, 1983) that a joint account of father and daughter would not count as a gift for CGT purposes if "you so operate the joint account as to demonstrate that it really you retain sole control of the money."

Could you further advise as to how this can be done? Would it mean, for instance, that during this lifetime only the father has a right to withdraw or dispose of the money, while the daughter has this right only after his death? Or, what other arrangement would "demonstrate sole control"?

It is a question of fact in each case whether there has been joint operation or control of the account in reality. If all payments in and withdrawals are made by one only of the joint owners and the deposits are provided from the funds of that one owner the sole control would normally be established. It must be borne in mind that if the account is in two or more names the bank may well feel unable to refuse to accept the directions of the account owners, even where an owner has previously been completely inactive.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Finding a way into pension plans

THE CURRENT Government inquiry into portable pensions has highlighted several restrictive practices within the current pensions framework, most of which have been imposed by the Inland Revenue.

One such practice is that which requires the self-employed to save for their pensions through a life company contract in order to qualify for the generous tax concessions available.

Thus if the self-employed seek to build up their own share portfolios to provide their pension, the investment will be treated by the taxman in the same way as any other form of individual savings—and clobbered accordingly.

This is of general concern to the Stock Exchange seeking to attract back the private investor. But investment trust managers are even more worried. Increasingly, under pressure from big institutional shareholders they want to expand their private share ownership.

They feel that investment trusts can provide pension

savers with investment expertise and spread of risk on a par with unit trusts. Over the past four years, various schemes have appeared which enable the self-employed effectively to run their own DIY pension fund.

This week, the Edinburgh-based Stewart Fund Managers found a way around the bar on marketing investment trust shares to the self-employed pension market using a similar principle to that of the DIY schemes.

It has linked up with Sun Life Assurance to launch a new special fund for Sun Life's personal pension contracts. The unlisted fund will have Stewart as the fund managers and though the investment powers are wide, the fund will invest in shares of Scottish American Investment Company, known as Saints. The new fund is called appropriately the Saints personal pension plan.

The fund is available only on single premium contracts. The policy of the fund managers is to hold Scottish American

shares at all times, with the gross dividends paid being reinvested in the shares. The managers may hold cash on a temporary basis, awaiting a more favourable time to buy. But no shares will be sold unless this is necessary to meet any liquidity requirements.

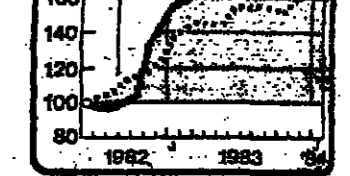
Thus the fund is effectively an investment in Scottish American shares. If the self-employed wants to invest some or all of his contributions in these shares, he buys units in the Saints fund. If he wishes to sell the shares, he simply switches to another fund under the policy. There are eight, including a cash fund.

Other investment trust management groups could well follow the lead of Stewart and link with a life company. But what does this new fund offer self-employed people investing their pension money that unit trusts or unit-linked equity schemes do not offer?

The first difference between investment trusts and unit trusts is that investment trusts' shares prices stand at a significant discount to the underlying asset values, whereas unit prices are the asset value prices. Scottish American's discount is around 26 per cent at present.

This can operate either way as far as investors are concerned. Over the past five years discounts have come down from very high levels, and this has been one reason why investment trusts have outperformed unit trusts in recent years. Scottish American will now hope that the extra demand generated by the Sun Life scheme will help the discount to come down further.

But investors should be aware that this is a rather specialised trust. Those buying Scottish American shares are investing in a fund that is spread 50 per cent in North America, nearly 30 per cent quoted UK and 20 per cent unquoted UK. Investors need to check out the underlying asset distribution.



Japan's Assets, may have a different investment style to Edinburgh's Fund Managers in that it tends to buy stocks and stock with them, but the managers there are equally cautious about the state of the market. They think there could be a sharp sharp fall in the coming week.

But as Hamish Buchanan, a stockbroker Wood McKenzie points out: "The managers of most of these trusts are very nimble. The name of the game in Japan is to take profits and pick the sectors carefully. You would have to feel very bearish about Japan to get out of these trusts now."

Ivory & Slime, which manages Terry Garrett

Rising with the rising sun

ANY INVESTOR who bought shares in investment trusts specialising in Japanese stocks at the beginning of 1983, and sold them a year later is probably still celebrating on the proceeds. In terms of asset performance there was not a sector to touch it last year.

Depending on who draws up the league table there is a little bit of shuffling for position as top performer last year. But when investments have doubled in value over 12 months few shareholders are going to quibble over a percentage point or two.

According to Phil Butt of stockbrokers de Zorn & Bevan the top five performers in terms of asset appreciation amongst the major trusts were all funds devoted to the Japanese stock market.

On his league table, New Tokyo holds its own with a gain of 102.5 per cent followed by Baillie Gifford Japan—99.0 per cent, Japan Assets—90.0 per cent, Crescent Japan—68.5 per cent and GT Japan with 68.5 per cent. Fleming Japan just gets into the top ten with an increase of 51.8 per cent while the other major trust, Drayton Japan, is not far behind.

With the Tokyo market in full swing it is hardly surprising that British investors were wil-

ling to chase the thin ranks of specialist Japanese trusts. When it comes to share price performance during 1983, the first three trusts are all from that sector, headed by Baillie Gifford with a 111.5 per cent increase.

And with the enthusiasm came the rare sight of investment trust shares changing hands in the stock market at, or even above, net asset value.

No matter how much the Association of Investment Trust Companies promotes the trust movement as a whole as an ideal medium for investing in equities, prices usually stand at a substantial discount to underlying assets. An investor who is willing to pay more for a trust than its assets are worth has to have a rare faith in the prospects for future performance.

The attractions of Japan are understandable enough. With the economy undergoing a strong export-led recovery and corporate profits beginning to climb rapidly Tokyo stock market prices have been surging. The Nikkei-Dow Jones Index has climbed from 8,021.4 at the beginning of 1983 to pass through the 10,000 level for the first time ever just over a year later.

The course of the broader-based Tokyo Stock Exchange list section has been no less im-

pressive. In sterling terms, adjusting for a depreciation in the pound of 11 per cent, the first section rose by close to 40 per cent. The more volatile second section, taking in the sexy junior stocks, virtually doubled in sterling terms over the 12 months.

After such an advance the obvious doubt is whether the market has topped out, in which case those London investment trust prices would be valuable.

On fundamental grounds, however, the Japanese market as a whole does not look overplayed yet. In the fiscal year to March 1984 corporate profits will grow by around 40 per cent according to stockbrokers Grieson Grant, slowing to 20 per cent or so for the following year.

Graham MacLennan, one of Edinburgh's gurus on the Japanese market at Edinburgh Fund Managers looking after New Tokyo and Crescent Japan, believes the market is ripe for a major shift of policy, away from the high-flying technology stocks standing on earnings multiples of between 30 and 100, to the calmer waters of companies that will benefit from a consumer upswing.

Ivory & Slime, which manages Terry Garrett

The Mercury approach to unit trusts:



a team strategy to protect the individual investor.

The private investor probably faces more problems today than ever before.

There is the delicate balance to be struck between concentrating a portfolio (and thereby increasing the risk factor) and diversifying it (with the possibility of diluting its performance).

Also—especially in volatile conditions—there is a serious temptation to over-react to short-term situations, rather than identifying basic trends and planning sensibly to take advantage of them.

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- Mercury General Fund
- Mercury Gilt Fund
- Mercury Income and Recovery Fund
- Mercury International Fund
- Mercury Japan Fund
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If you had invested £1,000 on 11 September 1974, your units would now be worth a staggering £15,700. And remember, until these units are sold, there is no liability to Capital Gains Tax.

If you had put that £1,000 on deposit in a Building Society Share Account, for example, it would now be worth only £2,072.

How well have your current holdings done over the same period?

NB: Growth Fund figures are on an offer to offer basis and include one re-invested share. FT: FT Ordinary Index has been adjusted to include dividends and re-invested income. Investors should accept past performance as a useful guide only and not a guarantee of future success.

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TRADED OPTIONS

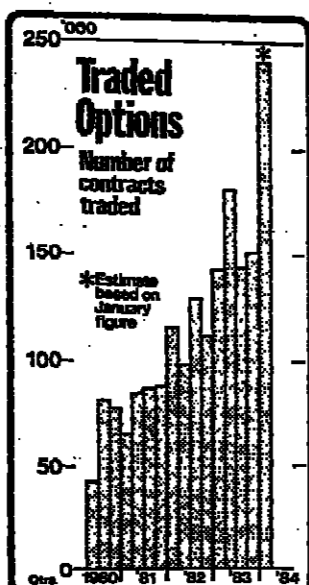
A cheaper way for pessimists

CHARLES BATCHELOR explains how an emerging financial instrument can be used to hedge your risk.

WITH THE end of the financial year in sight, investors sitting on large capital gains made in the stock market should consider traded options as a way of minimising their tax liability.

With many shares currently near their all-time highs, writing an option on shares you already own will allow you to protect your investment against a fall in the market over the next few months. At the same time you could defer the tax liability which arises from the sale of the shares into the 1984-85 tax year, starting on April 5.

Lots of private clients want to fix their selling price at present levels but they don't want to be taxed this year. Comments on options specialist. "Writing a deep-in-the-money call option, where the exercise price is well below the current market price of the underlying stock) to ensure that the stock is definitely taken from you, is proving very popular.



would work, assume that you wish to sell your shares in Marks & Spencer. Instead, you decide to hedge the shares by using the Marks & Spencer 200p April call option costing 27p. Writing, that is selling, the "call" option will give you an immediate profit of 27p nominally taxable this year, as a capital gain (see panel).

THE METHOD of taxing options on shares has long been the subject of esoteric disputation.

Until 1980, the taxman treated all options, crudely and often unfairly, as wasting assets whose residual value was nil. But since then London traded options (and those traded on approved foreign stock markets) have been subjected to more favourable rules although the more traditional untraded call, put and double options are still regarded as wasting assets.

Unless the investor is a professional trader, the profits and losses from traded option dealing will be subject to the rules of capital gains tax.

In the simplest case, where the investor buys a call option and then exercises it, the cost of the option is added to the cost of the shares, thus reducing any capital gains liable to tax. The rules of indexation, however, apply, partly from the month in which the option is bought and partly from the month in which the shares are bought.

It has been an uphill struggle for the traded options market over the past six years to establish a reasonable volume of business. Its supporters have had to overcome the

speculative image that attaches to options, the unwillingness of the Stock Exchange to commit substantial funds to the venture, uncertainties over the tax position of many potential participants and the unfamiliarity of the subject.

The traded options market, which takes up part of the Stock Exchange floor, has traded about 4,500 contracts a day over the past two weeks compared with around 4,000 a day in early January. The European

Not an optional tax

When a put option is bought and exercised, the cost of the option may be deducted from the sale price. If you bought the shares for 240p, your capital loss would be 13p per share.

But in this example, if the option was written in the current tax year 1983-84, but exercised only after April 5 (which it would be if the expiry date was April 25), then the investor appears to have made a capital gain in 1983-1984.

But, although he will have to declare his option writing as a capital gain in his 1983-1984 tax form, he will not be obliged to pay any capital gains tax on this, provided he tells his tax inspector of the subsequent exercise of the option against him. Whether he ultimately makes a 17p gain per share or a 13p loss, his CGT position will be affected in 1984-85 only.

If an option you have written has not yet expired by the time you fill in your tax form—and so you do not yet know whether it will be exercised against you—your tax

inspector will normally agree to wait before assessing you on your 1983-84 option writing.

Thus, curiously, your tax liability in one year will be affected by events beyond your control in the subsequent year.

In all these cases of writing a call option, the inflation indexation allowance runs from when you originally bought the shares to the month in which the option is exercised against you.

If you write a put option which is exercised against you, the price at which you sell the option is offset against the cost to you of buying the shares. Only the net cost is eligible for indexation.

If April 5 intervenes before the option is exercised against you, the same rules apply as for writing a call option. Further details on the taxation of traded options, are supplied in a booklet produced by accountants Spicer and Pegler (London office telephone: 01-233 3070).

Clive Wolman



The traded option patch on the Stock Exchange

volume in issue. An option is the right to buy or sell shares in a particular company at a fixed price on a specific date up to nine months ahead. Options conferring the right to buy are known as "calls," options to sell are "puts."

The simplest form of option transaction is the purchase of a "call" option in a stock which the investor expects to increase in value. For example, suppose that with ABC Company's shares standing at 280p in January you buy an April 310p option at say 17p. By the time the option expires in April the stock has risen to 350p. This means you have the right to buy the shares at 310p and sell at 350p to show a gross profit of 40p. Deduct the cost of your option and your net profit is (40-17p) 23p. Options are traded in contracts for, in most cases, 1,000 shares, so your profit on a contract is 1,000 x 23p.

Risks of a worthless guarantee

ERIC SHORT on the problems exposed by a recent insurance company collapse.

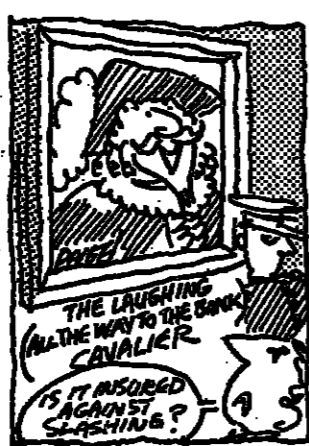
LAST WEEK, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry petitioned for the winding-up of Cavalier Insurance Company, thus writing a further chapter in the extended warranty insurance scandal surrounding the marketing company, Multi-Guarantee.

Extended warranty provides insurance against the cost of replacing defective parts and servicing household goods and cars after the manufacturer's warranty has expired. The business has mushroomed over the past few years. Retailers sell insurance schemes to customers at the points of sale.

Multi-Guarantee blossomed by offering warranty schemes for retailers. But the methods used in underwriting the risks were questionable. Cavalier Insurance was not authorised by the Department of Trade to write extended warranty business, but it was used by Multi-Guarantee for its schemes.

Normally consumers with extended warranty schemes through Multi-Guarantee and Cavalier would not be unduly perturbed. After all, the previous Labour Government brought in the Policyholders Protection Act in 1975 to ensure that the public did not suffer undue financial loss when an insurance company ran into financial difficulties.

The Act guarantees that policyholders will receive 90 per cent of their insurance benefits. But apparently this is not the case for Cavalier. The Official Receiver has warned policy-



holders with claims that they cannot expect to receive anything. So what has gone wrong? The operation of the Act has been affected by the judgment given last November.

The essence is that where an insurance contract is prohibited by statute, it is void. This since Cavalier was not authorised to write extended warranty business those contracts issued were illegal and thus void.

It is known that Cavalier had received over £1m in premiums on extended warranty business and that there were around 130,000 consumers with insurance.

The liquidation petition suggested that some £700,000 of money had been misappropriated, and referred to fraud.

This is a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. The Policyholders Protection Act was designed to protect policyholders when an insurance company ran into financial problems per se. It was not intended to carry its own clauses in small print.

The responsibility for policing the insurance industry rests squarely with the DTI, though the Department does not have a system for monitoring that insurance companies do not exceed their authorisation. The department was unaware of the activities of Cavalier until alerted by a Press article.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

A contract note for your investment together with a brochure will be sent immediately. Unit Certificates will be sent within 35 days. An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of the units out of which the Managers will pay commission to qualified agents (takes on request). Annual charges are deducted from the gross income of each Trust, at the following rates of the value of the Trust + VAT: 4% for Gilt and Fixed Interest Trust, Maximum Income Equity Trust and Growth + Income Trust, 1% for American Trust, American Special Situations Trust, Special Situations Trust and Managed International Trust, and 1% for Japan Trust. The Managers have the authority to vary the annual charges of Japan Trust and Managed International Trust up to 1% after giving three months' notice. The Trust Deed for Managed International Trust contains provision for the Managers to take power to write or purchase traded call options on behalf of the Trust at a future date. There is no present intention to use this facility.

SELLING YOUR UNITS: Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling when we receive your signed certificate. You will receive a cheque within 7 days of our receiving your signed certificate.

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FIDELITY UNIT TRUSTS form. Includes a table for selecting trusts and investment amounts, and a section for providing personal details and a signature. The table lists trusts like Fidelity American Trust, Fidelity American Special Situations Trust, Fidelity Japan Trust, etc., with columns for investment amount and a checkbox for 'This box for reinvestment of income'. The signature section asks for name, address, and postcode.



Clive Wolman reviews the growing range of tax-exempt friendly societies

Ways into a Victorian tax shelter

FOR MANY years, friendly societies were dismissed by investors as quaint anachronisms, whose high administrative charges prevented them from offering attractive rates of return.

That was before the tax avoidance experts discovered that anachronistic institutions are often governed by anachronistic tax laws. And since the 1980 Finance Act doubled the maximum level of benefits a friendly society policy can offer, several entrepreneurial and marketing orientated institutions have moved in.

In contrast to their origins in the Victorian working class, today friendly societies are most advantageous as investment vehicles for higher-rate taxpayers, at least those who are willing to tie up a modest amount of money for 10 years.

As with conventional life assurance policies, premiums paid on life policies with friendly societies are augmented by a 17.6 per cent contribution from the Government. But whereas life assurance companies are obliged to pay corporation tax and capital gains tax on the returns from their investments, friendly societies pay no tax whatsoever.

And when you cash in your investment after 10 years, you take all your profits tax free. In some cases, this has meant merely that the tax privileges of friendly societies, instead of being passed on to investors, have been eaten up in high management charges, partly a consequence of their dealing with many small sums. For example, the Moneywise Friendly Society, based in Bournemouth, uses up the entire first year's premium on its 10-year unit-linked life assurance policy in management charges and commissions.

Nevertheless, increasing competition has led to the launching of some attractive schemes in recent months. It is doubtful whether the Government will permit the indefinite survival of all the tax anomalies which are being exploited.

But any tax changes are unlikely to affect 10-year policies already taken out. So it is worthwhile going in while the going is good.

But there are several major restrictions:

● The maximum annual premium you can pay is about £226 before tax relief, as a result of a limitation on the maximum sum assurable at £3,000. But Saver's Assurance is able to accept slightly higher premiums.

● The premiums have to be paid over 10 years, and the amounts cannot be varied.

● If you surrender your policy before 10 years are up, you will receive only the return of your premiums with no interest and no inflation adjustment. Also, it is almost impossible to borrow directly or indirectly on the security of your policy.

● Most policies can be taken out only by a married person or a parent. But the Northern Rock Building Society has discovered a way round this restriction by linking up with the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Life Insurance Collecting Society, a friendly society which was formed long before 1986 when the new restrictions took effect.

● At least half your money must be invested in what, again rather anachronistically, are considered to be low risk investments by the 1961 Trustees Act.

● There is a small danger that your friendly society could run into financial difficulties and become insolvent when you would not have the security of the Policyholder's Protection Act.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, however, watches his brood closely and, on the one occasion that a society has foundered (Drummond Assurance in 1978), it was taken over by another society and none of its policyholders lost out.

In spite of the limitations on investment media imposed by Parliament, the most serious drawbacks of most of the current plans are self-imposed. The most tax-efficient approach for a moderately wealthy investor is to regard his friendly society investment as the lowest risk part of his portfolio. This is because the returns on lower risk investments, typically deposit accounts, are generally taxed as investment income. But the profits on more speculative

investments are usually subject instead to the more favourable capital gains tax.

But as a friendly society provides a complete tax shelter, it is more logical to use it to shelter highly taxed returns rather than returns which would not be subject to much tax anyway. Thus the link-up

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Family Assurance

the risklessness of a building society investment derives partly from the investor's ability to withdraw his money at any time.

Thus you are not obliged to stick with a building society if it fails to move up its interest rates in line with inflation, as occurred in 1974-75 and 1979-80. But with a friendly society investment, you are effectively locked into your investment for 10 years. So that if inflation takes off again and building societies are again prevented by political pressures from raising their interest rates, your friendly society investment would suffer.

For this reason, these friendly society plans which are being paid interest rates which are being paid irrevocably to building society investment should not be viewed as riskless. These include the St. Andrew's Friendly Society, linked with Woolwich Equitable. Homeowners linked with the Bradford and Bingley Building Society and others, and Manchester Life linked with Northern Rock.

The Fleet friendly society also offers plans linked to the Halifax and Ancilla building societies but retains the right to switch its investments. Another source of doubt about the link-up with building societies is that the promoters of these schemes often do not reveal what rate of interest is

Friendly society	Telephone number	Investment media	Charges	Number of members
AA	Cardiff 35542	Managed fund including M & G unit trusts	Average	8,000
Family	Brighton 671111	Several funds covering gilts, equities and building societies	Average	100,000
Fleet	01-253 7520	Several funds covering unit trusts and building societies (see text)	Low	6,000
Homeowners	Harrogate 67355	Building societies	Low	100,000
Lancashire & Yorks	Sheffield 750877	See text	Average	20,000
MULICS	061-832 9361	Building societies	Low/average	4,500
Moneywise	Bournemouth 292373	50 per cent in high income unit trust	High	2,000
Savers	061-678 9478	See text	Average	9,000
St. Andrew's	Bristol 229179	Building society	Low/average	2,000

being paid by the building society. The MULICS-Northern Rock scheme is one example.

In most cases investors are being paid interest rates which, after making adjustments for the composite rate of tax on individual accounts, are closer to the relatively low building society ordinary share rates rather than the higher-interest two-year term shares.

There are several schemes, however, which invest in short-dated high coupon gilts. If interest rates and inflation move gradually upwards, investors will suffer small capital losses on their gilts but these should be more than offset by the higher yields they can obtain. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Friendly Society, as well as another plan linked with Gartmore's low-yielding unit trusts (mostly invested over-

seas), also has a "Capital Secure fund" which invests 100 per cent in gilts and other fixed interest stock.

It has achieved high returns over the last five years. But this is partly because it has a relatively risky portfolio, holding gilts whose redemption dates are five or more years away. Thus, as with the building society schemes the real returns to investors are vulnerable to an upsurge in inflation.

The Fleet friendly society, whose charges are the second lowest of any society (and the lowest for elderly investors), offers one plan which is 50 per cent invested in a high income unit trust, managed by Prolific. But investing in any unit-linked plan, even in a high-yielding fund like this one, may lead to disappointment if the stock markets are in the

doldrums when your 10 years are up.

A different type of scheme is offered by Saver's Assurance society, based in Oldham, Greater Manchester. It offers the only with-profits friendly society scheme, with a managed fund invested in a spread of shares, gilts, property and deposits. The with-profits structure allows the society to smooth out the fluctuations in returns from year-to-year thus reducing the risk to investors. One minor disadvantage of a with-profits policy is that the society's charging structure is not transparent. Certainly, Saver's Assurance gives more generous commission to salesmen and brokers than the average. But most societies give high commissions in relation to the sums invested, usually £100 or more.

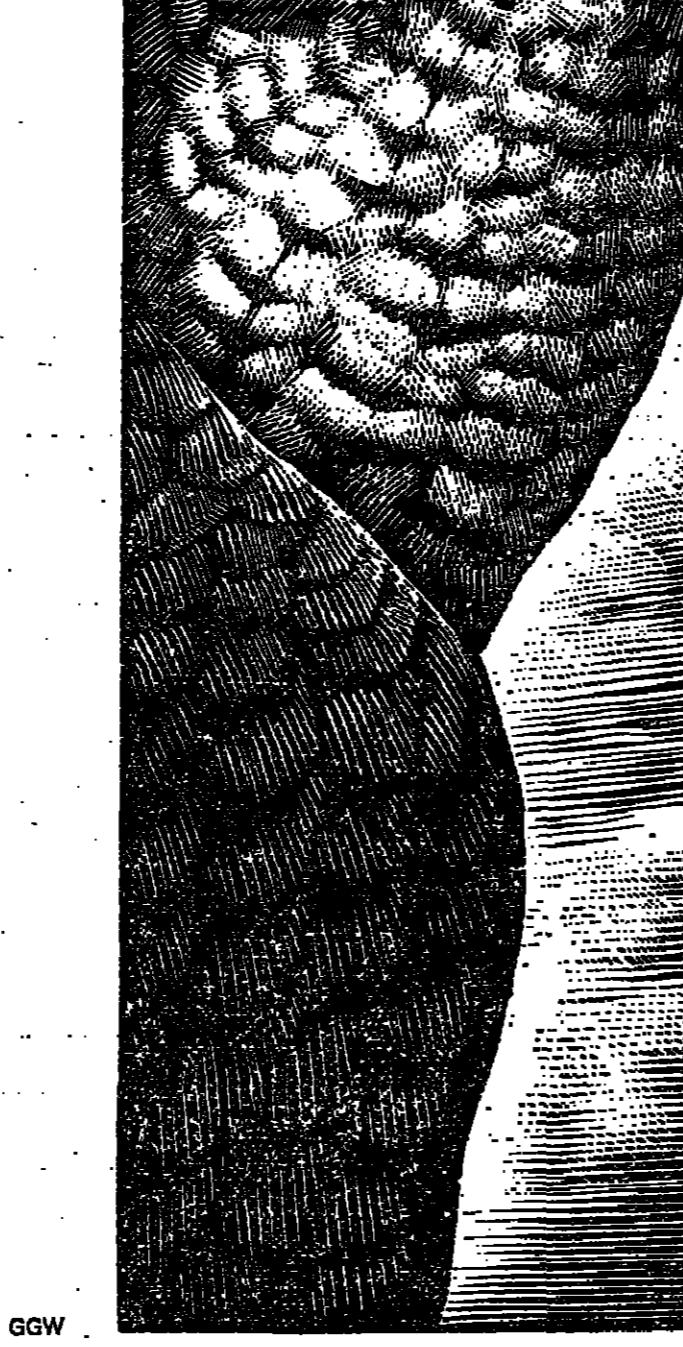
investments are usually subject instead to the more favourable capital gains tax. But as a friendly society provides a complete tax shelter, it is more logical to use it to shelter highly taxed returns rather than returns which would not be subject to much tax anyway. Thus the link-up

announced this week between Saver's Assurance and Aitken Hume's technology unit trusts, which offer low yields, will probably not fit well into a higher-rate taxpayer's portfolio. Several friendly societies have linked up with a building society into which all their clients' money is placed. But

investments are usually subject instead to the more favourable capital gains tax. But as a friendly society provides a complete tax shelter, it is more logical to use it to shelter highly taxed returns rather than returns which would not be subject to much tax anyway. Thus the link-up

payment of stamp duty on the purchase of a house. ● Low-yield gilt unit trusts which strip their dividends to convert income into capital gains. ● Possibly even the use of a covenant to make payments to your impoverished student children, even though the Inland Revenue co-operates with this device by producing standard covenant forms. ● Bed-and-breakfasting, which involves the sale and re-purchase of shares over account periods to crystallise a capital gain and reduce a future CGT bill. Over the next year or so, the courts may decide that the new doctrine does not apply to some of the more innocuous of these schemes. But it may be worth waiting to see what happens, before embarking on any new ones.

C.W.



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Clampdown on tax avoiders

IF YOU think you've found yourself a way of saving tax, then think again. Many of the jerry tax avoidance plans sold through brokers may have to be withdrawn and re-written—as a result of a House of Lords judicial ruling on tax avoidance handed down on Thursday. The courts will now strike down any steps in a series of transactions inserted purely to avoid the payment of tax.

The schemes and devices which could now be attacked retrospectively by the taxman include:

- The variety of schemes to avoid capital transfer tax, and possibly even the widely marketed inheritances trusts, which require the making of interest-free loans, and discounted gift plans.
- Schemes to avoid the payment of stamp duty on the purchase of a house.
- Low-yield gilt unit trusts which strip their dividends to convert income into capital gains.
- Possibly even the use of a covenant to make payments to your impoverished student children, even though the Inland Revenue co-operates with this device by producing standard covenant forms.
- Bed-and-breakfasting, which involves the sale and re-purchase of shares over account periods to crystallise a capital gain and reduce a future CGT bill.

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Now, thanks to Portfolio 30, basic rate taxpayers can achieve a high guaranteed income without deduction of income tax—with these major advantages:

1. Absolute security of your capital.
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3. Prompt payment of income.
4. Easy withdrawal.
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Here are just three examples of the guaranteed income you would have received based on Stock Exchange closing prices on 31st January, 1984 for an investment of £10,000:

Year of Capital Repayment	Monthly Income	Quarterly Income	Half Yearly Income
Stock A (1989)	£82.31	£246.93	£493.87
Stock B (1992)	£85.54	£256.62	£513.23
Stock C (1995)	£84.13	£252.39	£504.79

For a personal quotation with no obligation whatsoever, simply complete and return the coupon without delay.

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Please send me details of Portfolio 30, together with a personal quotation of the income I can expect to receive.

Income required: Monthly Quarterly Annually

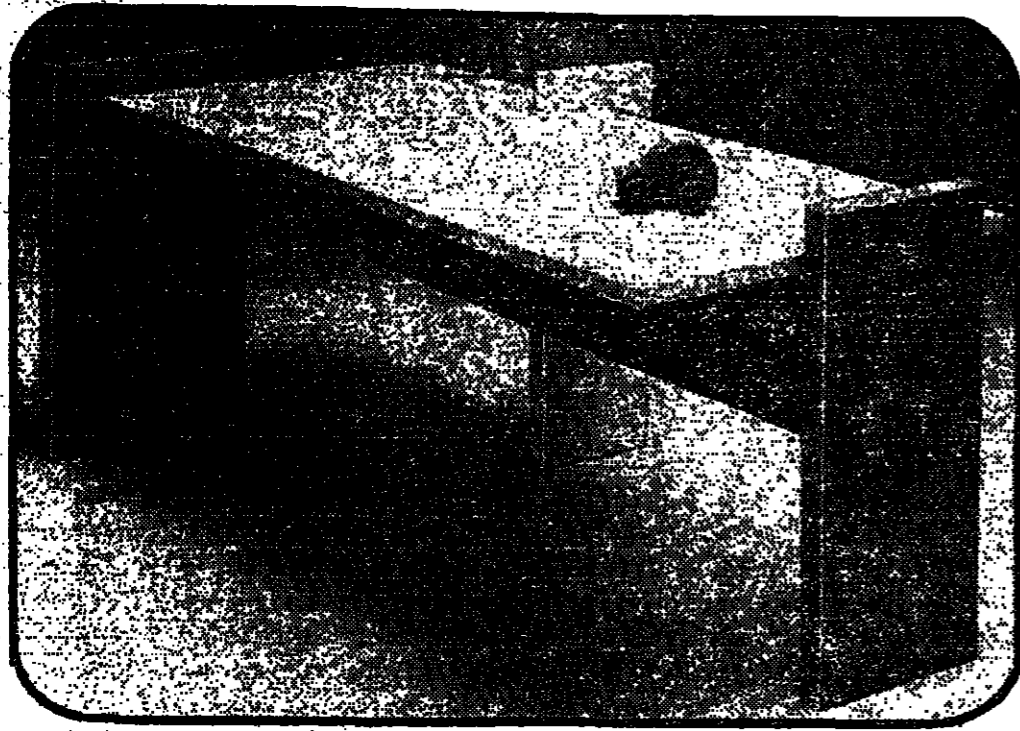
Amount available for investment: £ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

5708

Going to work in the home office



Danilo Silvestrin's "Homage to Mondrian" desk



The Desk

FOR ANYBODY who does any kind of work at home, the first essential is a desk. This doesn't mean, however, that you have to go out and look only at furniture bearing the label "desk". One of the simplest, most practical and inexpensive ways of making a flat surface is to buy a pair of trestle legs and a piece of chipboard or Formica (or even glass) to lay on top.

or you can buy a panel door, solid timber or a piece of glass cut to size. If you don't like the idea of trestles you can balance the working surface on filing cabinets or on those marvellous six-drawer plan chests that can still be found in secondhand furniture shops. Cheaper still are the red or blue metal trestles that Habitat sells at £19.95 the pair—to go with them there are melamine tops (2 cms by 133 cms by 67 cms) edged in matching red or blue for just £9.95. If you can afford a bit more the Habitat dining table, the Quarto, has clean, elegant lines, gives a good working area and is available in either plain oak or oak stained black, with steel cylindrical legs. At £195 they're a good buy—they also make an elegant dining table.

Johnny Grey, whose Home Office Collection I have written about before, is worth another mention for two reasons. Firstly, I think that the furniture he has produced really does achieve his aim of looking at ease in a domestic setting and yet at the same time offers the possibilities of efficient organisation of working material. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, his prices have been reduced by 40 per cent since I last wrote about the collection. This doesn't mean they are now cheap—the wood is mainly solid ash, the knobs and handles are all hand-turned, the attention to detail is evident when you see it in close-up. The ash trestle table (because the top is reversible just this part is ash veneered) is £375, the adjustable shelving unit is £725, the small pedestal filing cabinet with the vase on it is £509 while the black spun metal and red steel lamp is £182. All inquiries to Johnny Grey Design, Hampshire Farm, South Harting, Petersfield, Hants.

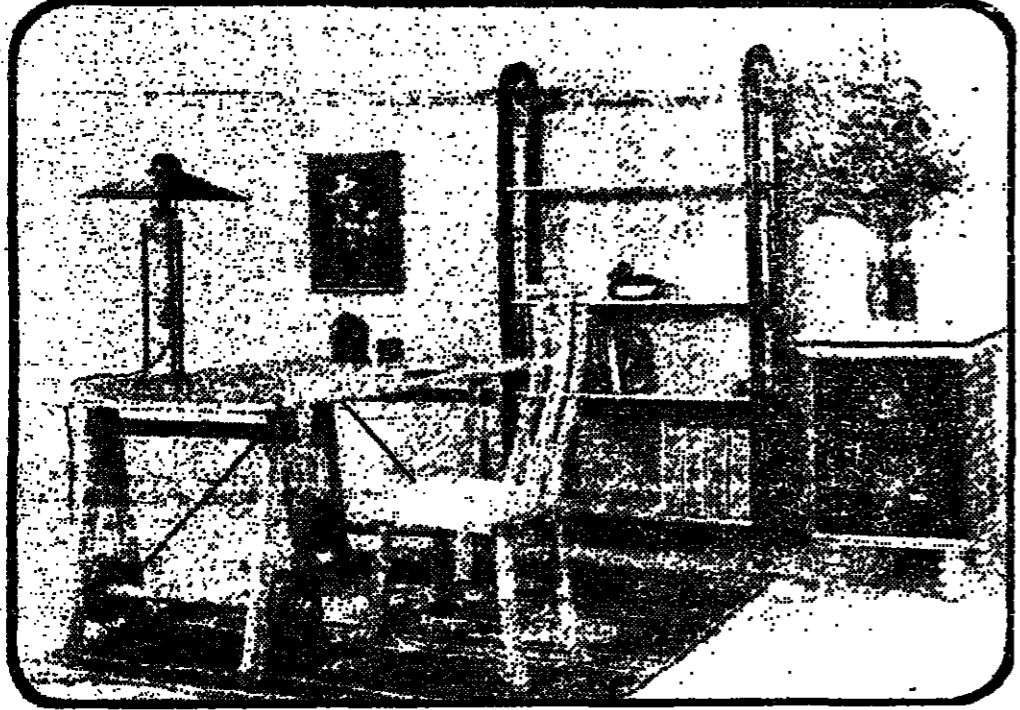
If your mood is modern, then one of the most desirable desks I have come upon recently is the one shown above with the rather pompous name of "Homage to Mondrian." Designed by Danilo Silvestrin, it is its proportions and colouring which make it so desirable—the top is in pale grey, the "modesty panel" in black while the three uprights are in red, blue and yellow. It measures 190 cms by 113 cms by 83 cms and costs £829 (exclusive of VAT) from Aram Designs, 3 Keat Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

FILES are yet another area that has been transformed by the clever designer's hand. They, too, are now so invitingly coloured, patterned and presented that choosing them is as much a pleasure as accessorising an outfit. Apart from the fact that they are so much prettier or smarter to look at nowadays, anybody who has a great deal of serious filing to do on many subjects can pick and choose a colour-coded system to make it easier to find what is wanted when it is wanted.

Above left is a simple ring binder file in a smart white with black spots design. It measures 10 in by 12 in, costs £3.45 and is just one of the many designs in this particular style—it happens to coordinate beautifully with the equally smart black and white diagonally striped document wallet with elasticated corners that sells for £2.99. Both come from a large selection at Scribbler, 170 Kings Road, London SW3; 29 James Street, London WC2; and 27 Kings Road, London SW3.

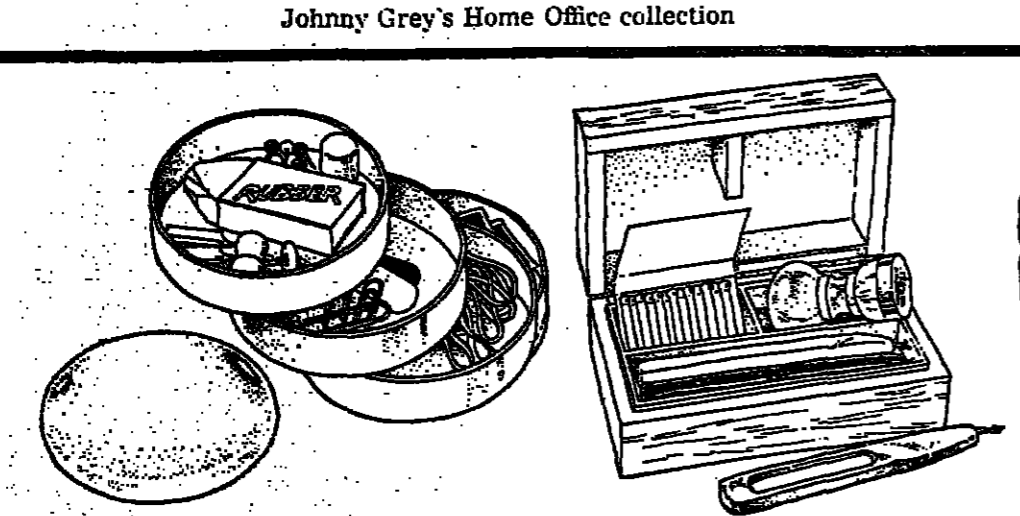
The box file with pale pink or blue umbrellas all over it, is £3.99 from V. H. Smith. For those who prefer a more classical answer to the same problem Bookbox, above centre, is probably the answer. From Unirose (the company that delivers a single rose, a bottle of champagne or endless other goodies to any address you choose), it is designed to make the staid old filing system look like an elegant old library. It is unblushingly frank about its aims. "Bookbox" says the press release, "is in the classical style of a handsome "library edition" combining all the advantages of an efficient, neat and tidy filing system with the elegance of an antique volume." So it does—until you look closely, but never mind, there will be many for whom this will be the perfect solution to a recurring problem.

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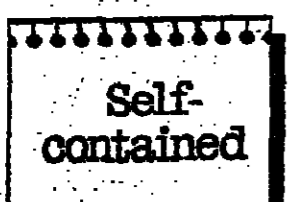


Johnny Grey's Home Office collection

Right, one of the sturdiest small personal filing systems I've seen. Not a thing of elegance but immensely practical. The file has a fold-down front which makes it much easier to rummage among the folders, there are 10 suspension files with ready-made indexes. It would make a splendid starting system for a young person embarking on life alone for the first time (we've given one each to our undergraduate children and it seems to have brought some order into their lives). In red, blue or grey, it is £18.95 from most W. H. Smith branches.



Small accessories with lots of style



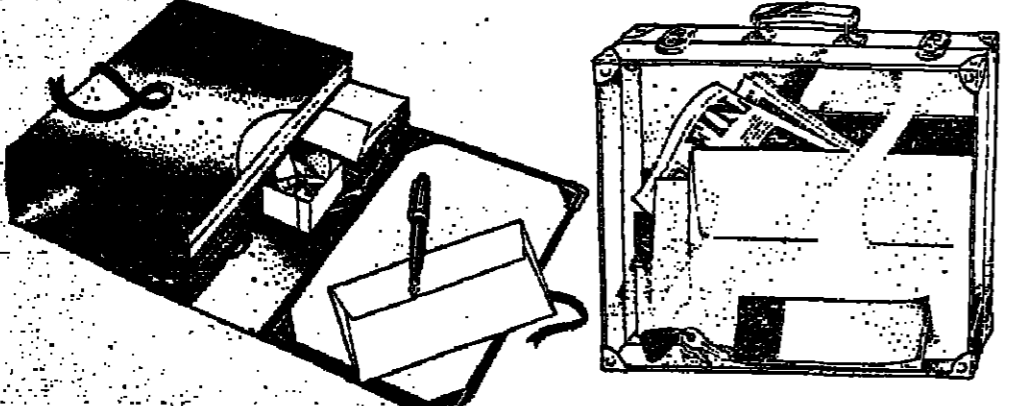
Self-contained

EXPENSIVE, BUT it looks it. A portable mini-desk, below left, for the writing of letters, for £88. The Box itself comes only in black but inside the various containers are 100 sheets of A4 Stationery Company £2.50 p+p.

paper and 100 DL envelopes in white, grey, pale or dark blue and cream. The middle drawer comes empty for storing pens, paper clips, stamps or whatever you will. From the Walton Street Stationery Company, it can be posted for £2.50 extra.

Even those with the most efficient home offices sometimes have to go a-writing. Carry your papers in this elegant see-through briefcase. A splendidly useful size, 17 in long, 13 1/2 in deep, it comes in see-through acrylic—blue, red, clear, smoke, in black but inside the various containers are 100 sheets of A4 Stationery Company £2.50 p+p.

For those who like all those small details to be just right it has never been easier to find the very thing. Sketched here from left to right is a charming little stacking container, four round trays to hold your rubbers, paper clips, drawing pins et al. In bright moulded ABS plastic you can choose from yellow, red, blue, white, green or black. £3.95 from most Ryman stores.



Portable writing set and a see-through briefcase

An exquisite small mahogany box (5 1/2 in x 5 1/2 in x 2 in) holding everything the old-fashioned letterwriter, who likes to seal his letters, would cherish. At £29 it would make a marvellous present.

The set includes three sticks of wax, a seal with up to three initials and a small packet of matches. The wax comes in a choice of white, black, green, red, gold, silver or violet the handle of the seal is rosewood. From The Walton Street Stationery Company, 97 Walton Street, London SW3. Can be posted for 60p extra.

For pen users the Walton Street Stationery Company, typically, produces its own ineffably elegant container for its blue, black, burgundy, brown or green ink made exclusively from vegetable dyes. £2.50 bottle (p+p 60p).

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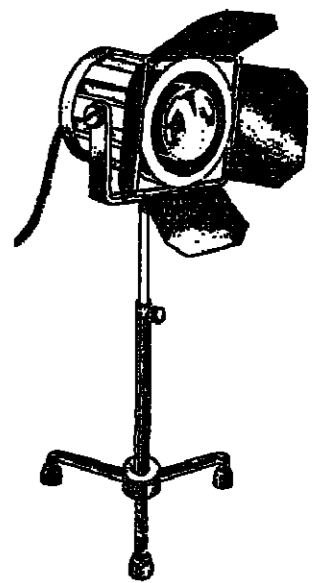
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The Hollywood light



The Light

ONCE upon a time the lighting scene in your average shop was a depressing sight. Today the choice is large. You can go into Woolworth, British Home Stores, the Habitat chain and be sure to find something well-made and well thought-out at a very reasonable price. A good light source is obviously vital to the home office and a track system is one good solution. (Jose Manser, a freelance design journalist, has a long L-shaped desk with storage behind and she uses a track with three spots—one is trained upon the L of her desk on to the typewriter, one upon the desk itself and one upon the files.)

I am a great supporter of the classic Anglepoise which can still be bought at about £15.95 in larger Woolworth stores. Less classic but a lot of fun is the Hollywood light (so-called for obvious reasons)—in red or black it takes only a 40 watt bulb so it shouldn't be your only light source (somebody I know has two, one at either end of his desk and says it works a treat). About 1 ft high, it is £29.95 (bulb is £1.50 extra, plus 5p) from The Last Detail, 841, Tulse Road, London, SW8 (p+p £1.50).

Drawings: Frank Wheeler

Holidays and Travel

Advertisement for holidays and travel, including sections for Overseas, Self-Catering, Hotels, Flights, Cruises, and Winter Sports. Features include 'Follow in Darwin's footsteps', 'Twickers World', 'Susi Madron's Holidays with a Bicycle', 'P&O - The Far East Travel Experts', 'Villa Holidays', 'Falcon', 'Swire', 'Holidays & Travel Advertising', and 'Ski French Alps'.

Take-over bids and deals

Cable and Wireless launched a \$296m cash bid for the 61.6 per cent of Hong Kong Telephone and fairly quickly announced that it had won control...

worth £7.85m for Prince of Wales Hotels, but the offer was rejected by the POW board as unacceptable and totally inadequate.

Table with columns: Company bid for, Value of bid per share, Market price, Price before bid, Value of bid per share, Bidder.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS table with columns: Company, Year to, Pre-tax profit, Earnings, Dividends.

Rights Issue: Newmarket (1981) - To raise \$22.6m through a one for three rights issue.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions: Amer Group - Private placing of up to 20 per cent of its equity followed by a listing on the London stock exchange.

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Continental Illinois

Mr. David G. Taylor, vice-chairman and chief financial officer of CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS CORPORATION has been elected chairman of Continental Illinois Ltd (CIL)...

Berry to group executive chairman and Mr. Ron Springall to chairman of the group's holding company...

re-appointed as an ordinary member from February 1 1981 to January 31 1987...

Mr. Christopher Ruck, previously a senior executive with Williams & Glynns Bank, who joined the CO-OPERATIVE BANK GROUP...

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, including A.B.N. Bank, Allied Irish Bank, Amro Bank, etc.

Continued from Page 22

Table with columns: Series, Vol., Last, May, Last, Aug., Last, Stock. Includes GOLD O, GOLD P, SILVER O, SILVER P, AKZO G, AKZO C, etc.

Mr. John Lewis has been appointed to the board of AKROYD AND SMITHERS, jobbers, as non-executive directors.

Milbury chief executive

Dr Paul B. Milhalop has been appointed chief executive of MILBURY, and Mr Bill F. Smith has become joint managing director of WESTMINSTER PROPERTIES GROUP...

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Table showing European options exchange data with columns for Series, Vol., Last, May, Last, Aug., Last, Stock.

Mr. John Selwyn Gummer, Conservative Party chairman, and Mr Edward Heath, to address National Young Conservatives conference at Winter Gardens, Blackpool...

Mr Ernest Amerbach, a senior vice-president of CIGNA International Corporation, will be appointed managing director of CRUSADER INSURANCE upon DOT approval.

UK CONVERTIBLE STOCK 11/2/84

Table with columns: Name and description, Size, Current price, Terms, Conversion dates, Yield, Red yield, Current Range, Equi Conv, Div, Current.

TOMORROW: Mr John Selwyn Gummer, Conservative Party chairman, and Mr Edward Heath, to address National Young Conservatives conference at Winter Gardens, Blackpool...

TUESDAY: Index of output of the production industries (December). President Reagan in Middle East talks with President Mubarak of Egypt.

"Natural gas supply in Western Europe" at 10 St James's Square, SW1. THURSDAY: Public sector borrowing requirement (January).

Today's Rates 10 1/2% - 11% 3i Term Deposits. Deposits of £1,000-50,000 accepted for fixed terms of 3-10 years.

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible...

MGM ASSURANCE. MARINE AND GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY. FUND LIFE OFFER BID OFFER.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS table with columns for Option, Apr., July, Oct., Apr., July, Oct., and CALLS/PUTS.

Granville & Co. Limited

Table listing various companies and their prices, including High Low, Company, Price, Change, Gross Yield, P/E, Fully.

NEW YORK

Table of stock prices for various companies in New York, including ACF Industries, AMF, and others.

Table of stock prices for various companies, including Clorox, Pepsico, and others.

Table of stock prices for various companies, including GE, IBM, and others.

Table of stock prices for various companies, including Amstar, Amgen, and others.

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NEW YORK

Table of stock prices for various companies in New York, including IBM, AT&T, and others.

Indices

Table of market indices including Dow Jones, S&P 500, and others.

STANDARD AND POORS

Table of Standard and Poors stock prices for various companies.

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Table of active stock prices in New York, including IBM, AT&T, and others.

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Early 5.8 rally on Wall St

A RALLYING tendency developed on Wall Street yesterday when stock prices were recovering some of the ground lost in recent days after investors became troubled about economic prospects for the U.S.

By 1 pm the Dow Jones Industrial Average regained 5.8 to 1,156.1, reducing its fall on the week to 35.42 while the NYSE All Common Index, at \$50.01, gained 29 cents on the day but was still down \$2.97 on the week to 1966.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by about a seven-to-six majority, but the trading volume dropped 25m shares to 68m, compared with 1 pm Thursday.

Analysts said investors may be encouraged by the possibility of improved relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union since the death of Soviet President Yuri Andropov.

They speculated that Washington may be able to seize the opportunity to lighten its strong stand against the Soviets.

Some operators said the Stock Market may become more cautious in the afternoon in advance of an expected large increase in the U.S. Money Supply.

Chicago-Milwaukee continued to climb and further advanced \$31 to \$115 on renewed takeover speculation.

Chock Full O'Nuts jumped \$2 to \$131 after a published report suggested that the company could be acquired.

Houston Natural Gas rose \$21 to \$55 on reports that it is looking for a "White Knight" to help it in its battle with Coastal Corp.

Long Island Lighting fell \$1 to \$51 after saying it suspended construction payments for its Nine Mile Point unit two facility.

United Brands improved \$11 to \$201 after American Financial Corp said it increased its stake in the company to 45.4 per cent from 23.8 per cent.

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

Certain Technology shares improved. Aynet moved up \$21 to \$36. Texas Instruments \$11 to \$129 and Gray Research \$12 to \$46.

THE AMERICAN SE Market Value Index gained 1.54 to 206.25, cutting its loss on the week to 6.99. Trading volume decreased 1.53 shares to 5.05m, compared with 1 pm Thursday.

Canada Stocks moved up over a wide range yesterday morning.

The Toronto Composite Index fell 13.6 to 3,389.8. Metals and Minerals 19.8 to 2,188.9. Oil and Gas 14.9 to 3,304.7. Banks 1.40 to 464.87 and Utilities 1.43 to 216.76. But Golds shed 3.9 to 4,096.0.

Northern Telecom further advanced \$1 to \$441 after estimating 1984 earnings would rise more than 28 per cent.

Germany News that Soviet President Yuri Andropov had died "choked off" an ongoing recovery by mid-session, pressuring equities to a mixed close by the end of trading.

Brokers said shares were in the process of rebounding from Thursday's decline in the Dow and the high level of margin buying positions were responsible for the fall, dealers said.

Investors held off towards the close ahead of the long weekend. The market will be close today, the second Saturday of the month.

Blue Chips, International "Populists" and "Big Capital" shares led the price falls.

Non-Ferrous Metal rebounded towards the close, but the rise failed to take momentum.

Honda Motor fell \$4 to \$21.30 following a fall in its American Depository Receipt.

Major Banks reacted on profit-taking.

Hong Kong Share prices tumbled in the wake of the recent decline on Wall Street.

The Hang Seng Index fell 16 points by mid-session and accelerated.

Dealers said investors were encouraged by signs that Wall Street's decline is slowing.

Analysts predicted a five-point bonus issue and was the most active stock with 1m units traded. Getting followed with 874,000 shares exchanged before closing at \$55.90, up 5 cents.

Switzerland Domestic stock prices finished mostly steady in moderately active trading.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar firmer

The dollar improved in currency markets yesterday in rather thin trading ahead of the weekend with U.S. centres closed on Monday for a public holiday. News of the death of Yuri Andropov, the Soviet President, tended to underpin the U.S. unit amid uncertainty as to who may succeed him. The market also reacted to fears of a sharp rise in U.S. \$1 money supply this week.

The D-mark was firmer against most currencies, with the exception of the dollar while the Swiss franc was weaker all round, even closing lower against sterling, itself rather weak on the day. The dollar rose to DM 2.7430 from DM 2.7330 against the D-mark and SwFr 2.2370 compared with SwFr 2.2190. It was also higher against the French franc at FF 8.46 from FF 8.404 and FF 8.404 from FF 8.404. On Bank of England figures, the dollar trade weighted index rose to 130.2 from 129.8.

Sterling was weaker against most currencies. Its trade weighted index fell to 81.4 from 81.7, having stood at 81.5 at noon and 81.4 in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at \$1.4145

and traded in a fairly narrow range at \$1.4100-1.4195. It closed at \$1.4135-1.4145, a fall of 90 points. Against the D-mark it fell to DM 3.8825 from DM 3.89 and Y332.0 from Y332.75. It was also lower against the French franc at FF 11.9450 from FF 11.9575 but improved in terms of the Swiss franc to finish at SwFr 3.1850 compared with SwFr 3.1600.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Table with columns: Feb 10, Day's spread, Close, One month, Three months, % p.a. months, % p.a.

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Table with columns: Feb 10, Day's spread, Close, One month, Three months, % p.a. months, % p.a.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Feb 10, Z Rate

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Table with columns: Feb 10, Pound Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Deutsche M., Japanese Yen, French Franc, Swiss Franc, Dutch Guild, Italian Lira, Canada Dollar, Belgian Franc

MONEY MARKETS

Further shortage

Day to day credit was in short supply in the London money market yesterday. The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £500m with factors affecting the market including maturing assistance and a take up of Treasury bills together draining £12m and Exchequer transactions a further £20m.

The forecast was later revised to a shortage of around £550m and the Bank gave assistance in the morning of £31m. This

UK clearing banks' base lending rate 9 per cent

comprised purchases of £3m of local authority bills in band 1 (up to 14 days) at 9 1/4 per cent and in band 2 (15-33 days), £33m of eligible bank bills at 9 per cent in band 3 (34-63 days) it bought £24m of eligible bank bills at 8 1/2 per cent and in band 4 (64-93 days), £28m of eligible bank bills at 8 per cent. The Bank also arranged sale and purchase of £220m of bills at 9 per cent, unwinding on February 14.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing rates)

Table with columns: Feb. 10, Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Dutch Guild, Swiss Franc, D-mark, French Franc, Italian Lira, Belgian Franc, Yen, Danish Kroner

Discount Houses Deposit and Bill Rates

Table with columns: Starting, Local Authority, Treasury, Eligible Bank, Eligible Bank, Fina. Trade

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

Table with columns: One month, Two months, Three months, Six months, Nine months, One year

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Table with columns: Feb. 10, Sterling, U.S. Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Dutch Guild, Swiss Franc, D-mark, French Franc, Italian Lira, Belgian Franc, Yen, Danish Kroner

AMERICAN MARKETS

Table with columns: Precious metals, COCOA, SOYABEAN MEAL, GOLD, WHEAT, RICE, SUGAR, POTATOES, RUBBER

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns: Latest prices, Change on week, Year ago, High, Low

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Metal prices end the week on quiet note

The death of the Soviet president, Yuri Andropov, failed to bring much reaction on the metal markets. Normally prices would be boosted by the ensuing uncertainty but on this occasion, reflecting the quiet state of the market, prices fell.

BASE METALS

Table with columns: High Grade, Copper, Nickel, Tin

COFFEE

The coffee market was much quieter than late. Last week's \$180 fall was followed through early in the week taking the May futures quotation down to \$182.50 a tonne. But after a modest rally the price ended \$33.50 up on balance at \$187.50 a tonne.

WHEAT

The London physical market opened about unchanged, attracted little interest throughout the day and closed on a quiet note, reports Lewis and Peet. The Kuala Lumpur Market for rice for RSS No 1 was 270.25 (270.0) a cwt and SMR 20 235.5 (235.5).

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Precious metals, COCOA, SOYABEAN MEAL, GOLD, WHEAT, RICE, SUGAR, POTATOES, RUBBER

INDICES

Table with columns: Dow Jones, Financial Times, Reuters, Moody's

LONDON OIL

Table with columns: Month, Year's day's or Business Done

SPOT PRICES

Table with columns: Arabian Light, Arabain Light, North Sea Brent, North Sea Brent

GOLD MARKETS

Gold fell 85 an ounce on Thursday's close in the London bullion market yesterday (to finish at \$378.378). The metal opened at \$380.381 and traded between a high of \$381.382 and a low of \$376.376.

GAS OIL FUTURES

Table with columns: Gas oil, Premium gasoil, Heavy fuel oil

LONDON FUTURES

Table with columns: Month, Year's day's or Business Done

LEAD

Table with columns: Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months

ZINC

Table with columns: Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months

COCOA

Table with columns: Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months

ALUMINIUM

Table with columns: Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months

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SOYABEAN MEAL

The market opened 50p up on weaker sterling, reports T. G. Riddick. Prices remained steady in narrow ranges.

POTATOES

In a quiet market there was little feature until buying on the close which produced a small gain on the day, reports Cole and Heper.

SUGAR

LONDON DAILY PRICES—Raw sugar (125.50) unchanged, a tonne for Feb/March shipment. White sugar \$194.50, down 33.50.

RUBBER

Table with columns: No. 1 Yesterday's Previous Business Done

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مركز الأخبار

Renault truck division deeply in red

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

RENAULT, the French state-owned car group, will continue to be burdened by the problems of its loss-making industrial vehicles and farm machinery operations for another three years.

show a deficit of more than Fr 1bn. The group is in the midst of considering detailed plans to restructure its farm equipment business. Negotiations are now advanced between Renault and International Harvester (IH), the U.S. farm machinery group, over major industrial collaboration in Western Europe.

to a major agreement. The first would involve a joint venture limited to the two concerns' French farm machinery operations. The second, and the one preferred by Renault, would involve collaboration on a European scale which would embrace IH's farm equipment operations and plants in West Germany and Britain as well as those in France.

probably involve substantial French Government financial support of around Fr 1.5bn. But the same officials said Renault was no longer holding discussions with Massey Ferguson in France.

Holmens Bruk to build newsprint plant

By Kevin Dona, Nordic Correspondent, in Stockholm

HOLMENS BRUK, Sweden's largest newsprint manufacturer, is to invest SKr 750m (\$85m) in a 210,000 tonnes a year newsprint plant.

The plant, to be built near Norrköping on the East Coast of Sweden, is planned to come into operation in September, 1985.

Assets sale boosts Metromedia

BY PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

METROMEDIA, the U.S. broadcasting and entertainment group which is currently the target of a management buyout, increased fourth quarter profits because of gains on the sale of assets.

made a final net of \$221.5m or \$6.51 a share on revenues of \$131m. Revenues in the latest quarter were \$160.3m.

\$1.35 gain on the sale of assets and retirement of debt. Revenues increased from \$407.1m in 1982 to \$532.8m in 1983.

Italian bank to double capital

ITALY'S second biggest bank, Banca Commerciale Italiana (BCI), plans to double its equity capital from L210bn (\$124m) to L420bn.

assets and profits rose satisfactorily last year, will give its shareholders shares to a value of L140bn by capitalising its reserves, and will offer the remaining L70bn worth in the form of rights, at a substantial discount on the current share price.

issued to the public in the last capital increase over two years ago start to be converted. The same goes for Credito Italiano and Banco di Roma, respectively 77 per cent and 88 per cent owned by IRI.

EFIM registers L440bn deficit

By Alan Friedman in Milan

EFIM, the smallest of the three major Italian state holding companies made a loss of L440bn (\$262m) last year, against a deficit of L380.5bn the previous year.

Group turnover last year was L4,225bn, against L3,700bn in 1982. Aluminium turnover totalled L600bn. Total outstanding debt at the year end was L2,310bn, of which some 1,500bn was dominated in foreign currency.

Straits Trading lifts CUB stake to 10%

BY TERRY POVEY

STRAITS TRADING, the Singapore-based trading company, has bought a further 4.6 per cent stake in Carlton United Breweries, the leading Australian beer producer.

This group "will not be an obstacle to Elders reaching the critical 80 per cent mark in its bid" for the brewer. Once this level is achieved, Elders can compulsorily purchase all the outstanding stock and integrate CUB as a fully-owned subsidiary.

EFIM needs an extra L560bn of aid this year. The company has pulled out of an Alaskan timber development project, which accounted for L370bn of the total L440bn 1983 deficit.

Straits has interests in brewing in both Malaysia and Australasia. There is a close relationship between it and Malaysian Breweries, the largest beer producer in Malaysia. Also Straits previously held a minority stake in Swan Brewery of Perth—sold in 1982—and in Leopold Breweries of New Zealand—also sold in 1982.

Morgan Guaranty in Japan venture

By David Lascelles in Tokyo

MORGAN GUARANTY, the New York Bank, and Nomura Securities, Japan's largest securities house, are seeking approval for a joint-venture fund management company.

The decision confronting the Finance Ministry is, however, similar. How rigidly should the law be applied, given that the Government is already committed to liberalising the Japanese finance industry, and the big fuss the U.S. is making about foreign access to Japanese financial markets?

Mitsui admits Alaska loss

TOKYO—A subsidiary of Mitsui, the Japanese trading house, has pulled out of an Alaskan timber development project, which accounted for L370bn of the total L440bn 1983 deficit.

bankruptcy in Anchorage on Thursday. Mitsui had forest operations in Alaska in 1973, selling pulpwood and producing woodchips for the Japanese market.

Banco Hispano-Americano ahead

BANCO Hispano-Americano, Spain's third largest commercial bank, registered a 7.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to Pt 13.6bn (\$87m) for 1983, compared with Pt 12.6bn in 1982.

cent reinforcement the previous year. Clients' deposits at the end of the year totalled Pt 1,291bn, an increase of more than 17 per cent.

A lot hinges on the decision. Three other large U.S. banks, Bank of America, Chemical Bank and Citicorp have announced plans to link up with major Japanese securities houses—respectively Nikko, Yamachi and Daiwa.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table listing various authorized unit trusts with columns for name, manager, and other details.

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table listing FT Unit Trust Information Service products, including names like Green Unit Trust Services Ltd, and their respective managers.

Table listing various financial services and trusts, including Save & Prosper Group, Tynall Managers Ltd, and others.

INSURANCES

Table listing various insurance companies and their services, including AA Friendly Society, Abbey Life Assurance Co, and others.

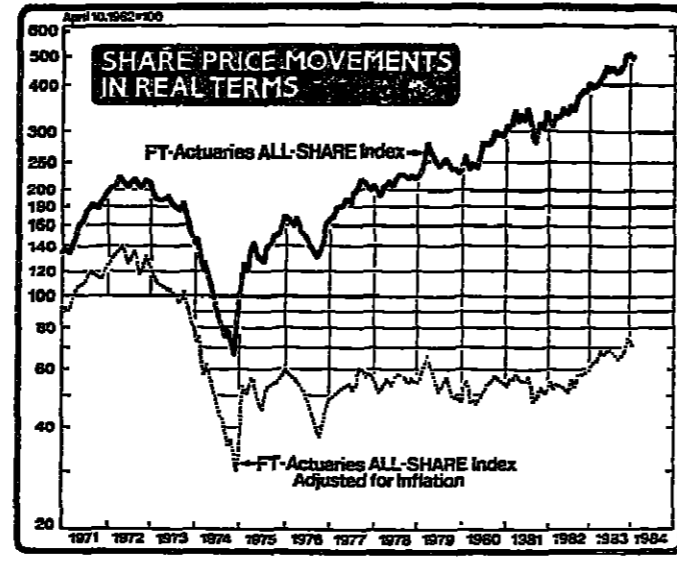
Equities remain sensitive at end of difficult week
Index down 27 points over five-day period to 805.4

Account Dealing Dates
Option
*First Declara- Last Account
Dealings Dealing Day
Jan 30 Feb 9 Feb 10 Feb 20
Feb 13 Feb 23 Feb 24 Mar 5
Feb 27 Mar 8 Mar 9 Mar 19

Erchequer 91 per cent 1988. reduced its first-day discount to close at 341. The shorts made fractional improvements of 1. A fair interest developed in the latest building issue, Province de Quebec 121 per cent Loan 2020. Following the 500m placing, the stock began its rise in 225-paid form at 251 and fluctuated either side of that level before closing at 251.

Royal Bank of Scotland up

Royal Bank of Scotland attracted renewed speculative support following a Press suggestion that Bank of America might buy and close a further 6 better and 14 higher on the week at 218p. Elsewhere in the banking sector, the clearers plotted an irregular course in this trading with sentiment still clouded by fears that the Chancellor might impose a VAT-type tax on financial services in the Budget. Lloyds gave up 7 at 542p, after 540p, but Barclays, which start the dividend season on March 5, improved 5 to 523p. Among merchant banks, Goode Durrant and Murray reflected disappointing results with a decline of 5 to 50p, while Minister Assets rallied 3 to 122p on revised takeover hopes. Kire Purchases were featured by Wagon Finance, up 3 at 50p in response to better-than-expected annual profits.



tends to close its West Bromwich factory. ICI slipped to 588p in the absence of support before picking up 10p to 598p. Vickers, a depressed market earlier in the week on adverse Press comment, rallied 5 to 131p. Interest in secondary issues was at a low ebb, but Forter Chemicals, up 21 at 65p, on the bid approach from GM Firth helped to enliven proceedings.

peak of 220p before settling 14 to the good at 213p amid rumours that a large shareholder had changed hands. Elsewhere among the leaders, Vickers, a depressed market earlier in the week on adverse Press comment, rallied 5 to 131p. Interest in secondary issues was at a low ebb, but Forter Chemicals, up 21 at 65p, on the bid approach from GM Firth helped to enliven proceedings.

Beecham above worst

Among Foods, Bio-Isolates slipped to 103p before late support left the close a net 2 dearer at 110p; the preliminary results are due next Tuesday. Paterson Jenks firmed 5 to 175p largely on the efforts of a single buyer. On the bid front, Bassett hardened 3 to 155p; Ayana's share-exchange offer is currently worth 142p per Bassett share. The leaders, easier during the House session, steadied after-hours and some eventually managed modest improvements. Tesco improved 3 to 189p and Unigate hardened a couple of pence to 118p. Grand Metropolitan continued to respond to an investment recommendation and put on 10 for a two-day gain of 18 to 248p. Trusthouse Forte added 3 to 204p on dividend buying. Ladbroke, a rising market recently on takeover hopes, encountered profit-taking and eased a couple of pence to 250p. Cable and Wireless, up 15 more to 317p, rallied afresh after successfully gaining control of Hong Kong Telephone. Munford and White, in contrast, weakened 10 more to 150p for a two-day loss of 45 on the profits warning. Sound Diffusion revived with a rise of 6 to 138p, while Atlantic Computer were noteworthy for a gain of 15 at 430p. Engineers were highlighted by TI which touched a new 1983-84

closed a couple of pence off at 418p, after 412p, while Ultramar settled 5 lower on balance at 640p, after 635p. Shell, down to 555p, initially, rallied to 600p, but still ended 48 down on the week. British closed without alteration at 233p, after 227p. Irish exploration issues were also volatile. Atlantic Resources dipped to 510p on fears that the company would have to seek fresh drilling funds before steady gains close a net 20 down at 640p. Aran finished 4 lower at 69p. Elsewhere, Invent Energy jumped 37 to 360p on Paris Basin exploration hopes. Berkeley Exploration gained 7 to 125p on news that Bristol Oil and Minerals, up at 82p, had increased its stake in the company to 11.51 per cent. Comment on the bumper annual results induced renewed support for Lonrho which closed 6 higher at 136p.

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Gold quietly mixed

Once again, mining markets were outplayed by domestic equities and finished the Account on a subdued note. South African Golds took the death of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov calmly and closed with modest gains for choice, although trade was again described as exceptionally thin. Bullion, down to 337.85 per ounce at the afternoon fix, recovered to close a net 55 lower at 337.50 per ounce. Among leading heavyweights, Vast Reefs rose 1 to 534.1, while smaller gains were recorded in Southern, 431.1, and Western Deep, 533.1. All will be quoted ex-dividend on Monday. Among cheaper-priced issues, South African Land dipped to 460p, but rallied to finish 3 dearer on balance at 477p. ERGO, 524p, recovered Thursday's fall which followed the proposed 833m rights issue in Convertible Debentures. In contrast, Grovite gave up 19 at 964p, while the veteran Simmer and Jack closed 18 off at 350p.

Platinum trended to lower levels with Rustenburg 10 cheaper at 785p. Impala, scheduled to announce first-half results next Friday, shed 5 at 630p. The antimony/gold producer Consolidated Marchionn eased 12 to 810p.

London-domiciled Financials responded to steady support and settled at the day's best with Charter 3 up at 228p and Consolidated Gold Fields 5 better at 522p. RTZ firmed 6 but still retained a fall on the week of 44, at 643p. South African, on the other hand, showed 'Amgold' another 11 off at 277p. De Beers shed 5 to 589p. Australians were also irregular. Easier initially in sympathy with overnight Sydney and Melbourne markets, selected counters steadied on London support for the new Account. In Golds, Central Noranda, firm at 5 to 393p, while Southern Resources, subject of UK 'call' option business recently, advanced 9 to 126p. Leading diversified issues closed with small losses as in Western Mining, 3 cheaper at 271p, and CRA, 2 off at 386p. Elsewhere, Homestake remained unimpressed by the fourth-quarter figures and shed 1 more to 520p. Traded options finished the week on a bright note with 4,603 contracts struck; the week's daily average amounted to 3,916. Lonrho attracted a substantial business in the wake of the annual results, with 1,031 calls transacted, 347 in the February 1987 which doubled to 7p. Lonrho also attracted 491 puts, 335 in the May 1987. Elsewhere, Beecham sprang to life and recorded 450 calls, 185 in the March 30's and 93 puts. A lively two-way trade developed in Imperial Group with 165 calls and 151 puts done.

Stylo drop

Leading Properties drifted back from slightly higher opening levels to close modestly lower. Land Securities settled 3 cheaper on balance at 249p, after 254p, and MEPC finished a couple of pence off at 250p, also after 254p. On the other hand, Feasby retained an initial gain of 3 at 187p, while British Land hardened a penny to 113p, the latter has issued a 15m Debenture stock following the 58.5m acquisition of Argent House, Finsbury Square, London. Elsewhere, Bairdwest Eves attracted a new-time 'buying' and hardened a penny to 80p, while Stockley returned to favour at 65p, up 3. Comment on the marked acceleration in second-half profits and the group's first dividend increase since 1979 helped profits to close modestly higher. In a colourless Textile sector, Courtauld edged forward a penny to 135p, but Harold Ingram lost 10 to 405p. Financial Trusts had Silvermines 5 higher at 136p following acquisition news. Hampton Trust revived with an improvement of 1 to 31p and R. Martin added 10 to 260p.

Oils dip and rally

Conditions in the Oil sector remained extremely sensitive. The fresh outbreak of a petrol price cutting spree, which has had reduced petrol by 4p a gallon, made for dullness early on, but quotations gradually recovered. Helped by Wall Street advice later, most finished only a shade easier on balance. British Petroleum

RISES AND FALLS

Table with columns: Yesterday, On the week, Rise/Fall, etc. Lists various stock indices and their performance over the week.

ACTIVE STOCKS

Table listing active stocks with columns: Stock, No. of Thrs., Day's change, etc. Includes stocks like British Resources, Shell, BP, etc.

THURSDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

Table listing Thursday's active stocks with columns: Stock, No. of Thrs., Day's change, etc. Includes stocks like BTR, Shell, BP, etc.

4-DAY ACTIVE STOCKS

Table listing 4-day active stocks with columns: Stock, No. of Thrs., Last Change, etc. Includes stocks like BTR, Shell, BP, etc.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

Table showing Financial Times Stock Indices for various sectors like Government Secs, Fixed Interest, Industrial Ord., etc. with columns for Feb 10, Feb 9, Feb 8, Feb 7, Feb 6, year ago.

10 am 801.9, 11 am 803.4, Noon 800.7, 1 pm 798.4, 2 pm 800.0, 3 am 800.7. Basis: 100 Govt. Secs. 8/1/58. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial 1/7/75. Gold Mines 12/1/58. SE Activity 1974. Least Index 01-245 8022. *Nil=12.08.

HIGHS AND LOWS S.E. ACTIVITY

Table showing Highs and Lows for S.E. Activity with columns for 1983/84, Since Completion, High, Low, etc. Lists various sectors like Govt. Secs, Fixed Int., etc.

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

Percentage changes since December 30, 1983 based on Thursday, February 9, 1984.

Table listing Leaders and Laggards with columns: Stock, % Change, etc. Includes sectors like Office Equipment, Overseas Traders, etc.

OPTIONS

Table listing Options with columns: First, Last, Last, For, etc. Includes sectors like Dealings, Settlements, etc.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1983/84

Table listing New Highs and Lows for 1983/84 with columns: NEW HIGHS (36), NEW LOWS (12), etc. Lists various stocks and their prices.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Table listing Recent Issues and Equities with columns: Issue Price, Amount, etc. Includes various stock issues.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Table listing Fixed Interest Stocks with columns: Issue Price, Amount, etc. Includes various fixed interest securities.

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Table listing Rights Offers with columns: Issue Price, Amount, etc. Includes various rights issues.

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

Large table showing FT-Actuaries Share Indices with columns: Equity Groups & Sub-sections, Fri Feb 10 1984, Highs and Lows Index, etc. Includes various equity groups like Capital Goods, Building Materials, etc.

FIXED INTEREST

Table showing Fixed Interest with columns: British Government, All Other, etc. Includes various fixed interest securities.

Table showing Equity section or group with columns: Equity section or group, Base date, etc. Includes various equity groups like Other Industrial Materials, etc.

* Flat yield. A list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4A, price 15p, by post 28p. NAME CHANGES: Alliance Investment is now F & C Alliance Investment.

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Fidelity International logo and text: Find out more - ring Freephone 2425 day or night

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Five to Fifteen Years table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Over Fifteen Years table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Undated table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Index-Linked table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

CORPORATION LOANS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

LOANS Building Societies table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Hire Purchase, Leasing, etc. table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Public Board and Ind. Financial table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS table with columns: Fund Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

AMERICANS table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

CANADIANS table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

BANKS, H.P. AND LEASING table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Chemicals, Plastics table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

DRAPERY—Continued table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Chemicals, Plastics table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

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ENGINEERING—Continued table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

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INDUSTRIALS (Miscellaneous) table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Div, Yield, etc.

Handwritten signature: J. H. H. H.

INDUSTRIALS - Continued

Table of industrial stocks including companies like BHP, Anglo American, and various mining and manufacturing firms. Columns include stock name, price, and other financial metrics.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Table listing motor and aircraft trade companies such as B.L. Motor, B.L. Aircraft, and related entities.

Commercial Vehicles

Table listing commercial vehicle companies like B.L. Commercial, B.L. Vehicle, etc.

Components

Table listing component manufacturers such as B.L. Components, B.L. Parts, etc.

Garages and Distributors

Table listing garage and distributor companies like B.L. Garage, B.L. Distributor, etc.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table listing newspaper and publishing companies such as B.L. News, B.L. Publisher, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

Table listing paper, printing, and advertising companies like B.L. Paper, B.L. Print, etc.

PROPERTY

Table listing property-related companies and investments.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies and financial services.

LEISURE

Table listing leisure and recreational companies.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies like B.L. Shipping, B.L. Freight, etc.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table listing shoe and leather companies.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table listing South African companies and investments.

TEXTILES

Table listing textile companies.

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies.

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Table listing trusts, finance, and land companies.

Table of financial market data including various stock prices and indices.

Table of financial market data, continuing from the previous section.

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Milestone logo and text: 'WORD PROCESSORS, SYSTEMS FURNITURE, PHOTOCOPIERS. FREEMAN MILESTONE LEASING LIMITED'.

MINES - continued

Table of mining stocks including companies like Anglo American, BHP, and various metal mines.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table listing overseas trading companies.

PLANTATIONS

Table listing plantation companies.

TEAS

Table listing tea companies.

MINES - Central Rand

Table listing Central Rand mining companies.

MINES - Eastern Rand

Table listing Eastern Rand mining companies.

MINES - Far West Rand

Table listing Far West Rand mining companies.

O.F.S.

Table listing O.F.S. companies.

Oil and Gas

Table listing oil and gas companies.

Diamond and Platinum

Table listing diamond and platinum companies.

Central African

Table listing Central African companies.

Regional and Irish Stocks

Table listing regional and Irish stocks.

Options

Table listing options and derivatives.

Recent Issues and Rights

Table listing recent issues and rights.

Notes

Notes section providing additional information and disclaimers.

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Table listing regional and Irish stocks.

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A cold shower for equities

Index rose 4.1 to 805.4

The London equity market has been in an odd mood this year. In fundamental terms, there was no very apparent reason for the FT 30-Share Index to race up by 70 points to its 840 high—nor, this week, to plunge back to a touch below 800.

There is a caveat, however, in that the UK recovery has so far been based almost exclusively on consumer spending—with retail sales running at stratospheric levels for months past.

Probably it re-evaluated itself to Citicorp's innovation on the grounds that no real parallels exist for Vickers' situation. Above all, it must be said, Citicorp seems to have acted shrewdly in shooting first and then asking the questions—canceling Vickers' dealing licence would have made a far greater stir than simply turning down a confidential approach from the U.S. bank, particularly in the wake of the recent pressures on Japan to make her markets more accessible.

Attitudes towards foreign institutions seem unlikely to be changed much in Tokyo—or, indeed, towards the Japanese banks in the City—by all of this. Unless, of course, MoF takes action to forestall a remote subsidiary of Bank America from emulating Citicorp's example by buying Merrill Lynch's Tokyo office.

Citicorp over Tokyo hurdle By David Lascelles in Tokyo JAPAN'S Ministry of Finance last night decided not to block Citicorp's proposed purchase of part of Vickers da Costa, the London stockbroker firm which holds one of the few licences granted to foreigners to do securities business in Tokyo.

Citicorp over Tokyo hurdle

The Japanese decision was made known to Vickers and Citicorp by the ministry which is responsible for regulating the securities and banking industries in Japan.

The deal posed problems for Japan, where banks are not allowed to enter the securities business. The ministry appears to have been satisfied that Citicorp's holding company structure would enable Vickers to be kept separate from Citicorp, the group's banking subsidiary.

Reagan's Lebanon aims questioned

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON AND PATRICK COCKBURN IN BEIRUT

THE REAGAN administration faces deepening disillusion in Congress about the apparent confusion among U.S. policy-makers over Lebanon. Critics of the administration say it seems uncertain about its ultimate goals for Lebanon and how to achieve them.

Some congressional leaders have made clear they feel cheated by the way the Administration is carrying out the withdrawal of the marines from Beirut. Congressmen had hoped the withdrawal would take place rapidly and not over the three to four months some officials have suggested could be the case.

Overseas buying lifts TI shares

BY RAY MAUGHAN

HEAVY overseas buying of shares in TI Group, one of Britain's leading engineering companies, pushed the price up 14p yesterday to 218p, a peak for this year and last.

The purchase was quick to deny that it had any TI stake. "TI has risen 4p on balance this week, despite dropping to 20 1/2p on Monday, during a period when the FT Industrial Ordinary Index, of which the group is a constituent, fell 3.3 per cent.

Yamani backs Nigeria's oil case

BY QUENTIN PEEL, AFRICA EDITOR

SHEIKH Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, has lent support in Lagos to Nigeria's case for an oil production quota above the level of 1.3m barrels a day fixed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

His backing came as Dr Ona Soleye, Finance Minister in Nigeria's military Government, again ruled out "straightforward devaluation" of the naira as a condition for a loan of some \$80m from the International Monetary Fund.

10% raised modular floors REST ON THE NAME OF EXPERIENCE

MAN IN THE NEWS

Lebanon's reluctant rebel

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

MR NABIH BERRI, leader of last Monday's insurrection in West Beirut which precipitated the withdrawal of U.S. marines from Lebanon, looks almost surprised at the speed of his own success.

He is now in control of two-thirds of the Lebanese capital, and has secured his position as the leader of the Shia Muslims, the largest community in Lebanon.

The Government of President Gemayel and his 37,000 strong army have so far been unable to mount a counter attack.

Berri is a far more reluctant rebel than Mr Walid Jumblat, the Druze leader. For almost 18 months he looked for social and political reforms from President Gemayel's Government.



Nabih Berri

ruled by traditional families and without a strong militia, the Shia suffered badly in Lebanon throughout the 70s.

In their stronghold in South Lebanon, and South Beirut, they were hit by Israeli raids and the 1975-76 civil war. In these areas and in the Bekaa Valley to the east, there were few government services, schools, or adequate roads.

Berri hoped that a new deal could be obtained for his co-religionists but despite a certain amount of rhetoric about reforms, President Gemayel would have none of it.

His growing militancy during the last few months was forced on him by the Government and by his own men. He could not obtain the political and social concessions he wanted. The breaking point came when the independent Shia enclave of South Beirut was shelled last week. He moved decisively into opposition to President Gemayel causing the resignation of the Government, the defection of part of the army and the takeover of West Beirut.

Nabih Berri remains very much a moderate seeking to remould and modernise the state. But his triumph is that of a sectarian military leader. His moderation has yet to pay dividends. Amal and the Shia have won their present position because of their military strength.

Wearing a suit and tie in his crowded office, Mr Berri contrasts with the heavily armed militia men who surround him. He has kept them under control but unless he can reach a modus vivendi with his opponents, his control over events will begin to slip. He cannot turn the Lebanon into a nation state but he is probably Lebanon's best hope that its heavily armed sectarian mini states will one day co-exist in peace.

Wall Street reflects on 'a very bad week'

BY JOHN MAKINSON IN NEW YORK

THE New York stock market has barely opened and Mr Jeffrey Weingarten, the senior securities analyst at Goldman, Sachs, is already puffing heavily on an enormous cigar.

Monday or Tuesday. In fact, the market may be telling them nothing at all," Mr Metz says. The bewilderment at the suddenness of the turn is almost total.

Then the rot began in earnest. Having dropped behind 1,200 last Friday the Dow continued an almost uninterrupted downward spiral this week, bringing it to a close of 1,152.74 on Thursday before a slight upward move early yesterday.

The bond market, however, has not responded to his remarks with anything like the ferocity of the equity market. Mr Jim Davin, a managing director of First Boston Corporation, says the market's mood is one of anger and fear.

At the end of last year, as New York's securities firms pushed out their strategy documents for 1984, the consensus was that the equity market would start the year well, encouraged by the evidence of rising corporate profits and stable, if not falling, interest rates.

Investors are angry that they failed to see the fall coming. Very few people, he believes, were on the right side at the right time. Now they are looking back over the market charts supplied by a host of independent advisers and kicking themselves for failing to spot the changing trend.

Later in 1984, they conceded, a slowing economy and worries about the November presidential election might pare the gains. Hardly anyone, however, was expecting a crunch to come so soon.

Very few people, he believes, were on the right side at the right time. Now they are looking back over the market charts supplied by a host of independent advisers and kicking themselves for failing to spot the changing trend.

Shipyards

agreement to acquire the yard from the state shipbuilder, but the Government said on Thursday that it was still open to other offers.

At Smith's Dock, 1,000 workers reached agreement, but 600 boilermakers refused to sign.

The situation is particularly confused in the warship yards, at which 5,000 workers had been expected to accept a deal in principle were cancelled yesterday because of a last-minute revolt against the deal by 1,000 boilermakers.

Manual workers at Vickers and Yarrow had rejected deals earlier this week in the hope that the entire warship division would reject them. But the small warship engineering company of Barclay Curie in Glasgow has reached a local agreement.

have only a modest impact on the index. The Government also hopes that the latest petrol price cuts and the possibility of a mortgage rate cut—the Building Societies Association council decided yesterday to leave the rate unchanged despite pressure from some societies for a reduction—will have a moderating impact on inflation in the next few months.

charges for alcoholic drinks and British Rail travel. Food prices were relatively stable, with a slight rise for some fruit offset by cheaper fresh vegetables.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY (Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

WORLDWIDE WEATHER UK today: Mild, Dry with sunny intervals but cloudy with rain in Scotland.

You could make 81% profit from these signals.

Ten months ago, in association with Investment Research of Cambridge, we introduced our new Technical Analysis Recommendation service. Independent examination at 6.284 confirmed a profit (excluding commissions) of 81% on its first 30 signals. And now we'll give you the next 5 signals. Absolutely free.

InterCommodities. Please also send me details of Trading Accounts Discretionary Accounts

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